

## Four arrested in picket line battle with police at Dover

## Sealink go to court as ferry clashes spread

● The first picket-line violence in the P&O dispute led to arrests in Dover after activists clashed with police

● Preparations were completed in the Dutch port of Rotterdam for the first P&O sailing to England in 12 weeks

● Sealink will seek sequestration of union funds after crews of two ferries refused to cross the picket lines

● The company formally dismissed the 720 NUS members who have refused to accept its new terms and conditions

By David Sapsed, Howard Foster and Roland Rudd

The three-month dispute between the National Union of Seamen and P&O European Ferries is expected to enter a more bitter phase today.

The company indicated yesterday the first of its ships would leave Rotterdam today for Dover while the union appeared to be spreading its action by stopping two Sealink ships from sailing.

Picket-line violence broke out for the first time in the

dispute early yesterday when seamen and a number of activists clashed with police. Three men and a woman were arrested and charged with picketing to prevent lorries from entering the port at

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Dover. Pickets numbered about 300.

Among those at Dover was Mr Terry French, described by some as "orchestrating" confrontation. Mr French was sentenced on appeal to four years in prison for causing grievous bodily harm to a police officer during the miners dispute four years ago. NUS officials appealed to police to stop him.

In the House of Commons Mrs Thatcher said: "Any violence is a criminal matter. People who resort to it must expect to be dealt with accordingly by the prosecuting authorities and by the courts."

In the High Court, Sealink plans to seek the sequestration of NUS assets after the action by ferry-men who refused to cross the union's picket line, causing the cancellation of two ships.

A company spokesman said: "As a consequence of using the same port as P&O Sealink crews are being intimidated by picket action and prevented from carrying out their duties. Despite reminding the NUS of its responsibility we now have no alternative but to renege on our outstanding injunction which we now consider places the union in contempt."

Mr Justice Ognall granted Sealink leave to cut the normal two days' waiting time at a brief private hearing.

There were suggestions last night that the NUS planned to mount a second mass picket early this morning at Folkestone in an attempt to stop Sealink services there.

Treading cautiously because of the High Court

hearing, all seamen's leader, Mr Sam McCuskie, said last night: "It is up to the judge to decide what should happen. We have tried to stay within the law but if it is decided that we have not, then I honestly feel this will no longer be a Dover issue, but a NUS issue affecting all our members, particularly those on ferries."

Meanwhile, in Rotterdam preparations were completed yesterday for the departure of the first P&O ferry to sail in 12 weeks. The Pride of Kent now has a full complement of crew and has taken on board sufficient fuel and stores to make the 10 hours' crossing from Holland to Dover.

The next to leave Rotterdam is expected to be the Pride of Bruges followed by, at the end of the week, the Pride of Sandwich.

A spokesman for P&O said yesterday that morale was high on board the ships and that the final additions to the skeleton crew were expected to arrive on board The Pride of Kent early today.

One of the new rules introduced by the company as part of the radical new employment package forbids the drinking of alcohol by crews on board ship. Yesterday, only food had been put on board The Pride of Kent.

Rosters are still being worked out by P&O for the operation of the ferries once back in service and three crews of about 80 men each are needed to fulfil safety requirements.

The NUS accused the company of keeping some of the ratings in Rotterdam, who will be used to sail the ships back to Dover, against their will. It said it had first hand reports that some of the seamen were not allowed off the ships and asked the Dutch ferry union, the FWZ, to investigate its claims. The company denied the allegations.

The three men and one woman who were arrested on the Dover picket line yesterday faced charges ranging from breach of the peace to

Continued on page 24, col 1



Police restrain a picket yesterday as demonstrators try to prevent lorries entering the docks (Photograph: Chris Harris).

## Coal picket veteran in front line

By David Sapsed

Mr Terry French, in the front line of yesterday's picketing at Dover, is a former Kent miner who was jailed for assault on a police constable during the miners' strike.

In yesterday's clashes outside the port gates, Mr French, aged 37, who was tipped last year as a possible successor to



Mr French: Orchestrated tactics with a loud hailer. The retiring Scottish miners' leader, Mr Mick McCabe, urged seamen to confront "the pigs" as he orchestrated tactics through a loudhailer.

Mr French himself did not take part in the confrontation, which was good humoured until a German lorry, its

Continued on page 24, col 3

## Threat of revolt forces concessions on benefits

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Details of the concessions on social security benefit designed to avert another backbench rebellion were being hammered out by senior ministers last night.

At Downing Street Mrs Thatcher met Mr John Moore, the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr Nicholas Scott, the Minister for Social Security, Mr John Major, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Mr John Wakeham, the Leader of the Commons.

They were prepared to meet again early today if necessary and their deliberations were due to be ratified by a meeting of the Cabinet economic committee. Labour is today staging a debate in the Commons on the benefit changes.

Mr Scott was applauded last night when he told a meeting of 80 Conservative MPs he was convinced the Government would do enough to meet their concerns. Doubts have spread well beyond the core of rebels to the most loyal Conservative MPs.

He made it clear that the Government was not looking only at the question of the cut-off in housing benefit for those with savings of £6,000, which many Conservatives want to see raised to £10,000. "Col-

leagues have concentrated on the capital cut-off but there are other places where the shoe pinches and we have got to look at those as well."

Mr Scott said he hoped the Government would be able to show during today's debate that it understood the con-

cerns expressed by its own backbenchers and others in the House.

Earlier, Mrs Thatcher hinted about the concessions when challenged by Mr Neil Kinnock, Labour leader, to say if there would be changes in housing benefit, changes she had denied were necessary when he questioned her only a fortnight before.

She said the system was badly in need of reform and the "substantial structure" of what the Government had introduced this month would stay a clear indication that some details were to alter.

It was explained in Whitehall that the Government was seeking an "amelioration of the anomalies". The likely cost would be something similar to the £130 million con-

cess already used to buy off community charge rebels.

Senior ministers last night predicted the Government would come up with a package including the correction of immediate anomalies and a review of the working of the new regulations which did not rule out further corrective action later if further anomalies were picked up.

The Government's business managers were satisfied that the package emerging would be sufficient to head off any serious Conservative rebellion on the Labour motion which calls for a lifting of the capital limit on housing benefit to £10,000.

Conservative MPs have been pressing for a lifting of the £6,000 capital limit and an easing of the "taper" by which housing benefit is withdrawn. They also want action in the cases of elderly people who are refused benefit on the strength of owning unsaleable houses which are classed as accessible capital.

Last night Mr Kinnock said the need to secure housing benefit changes was urgent because there was no transitional protection for those who lost out as there was with some other benefits.

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TOMORROW



TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

● The hunt is over: from more than 30,000 entries an outright winner has been found in The Times Tournament of the Mind. The winner — who made only one mistake in the final round — will receive £5,000 and The Times Mind of the Year trophy. The individual winner's name — and the answers — will be announced in The Times tomorrow

IN PART 2

Output boom

The CBI says orders and output are booming and a large number of firms plan to boost investment. Page 25

TIMES FOCUS

Plymouth plans to use the Armada commemoration to focus on investment and employment opportunities. Special report. Pages 18, 19

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★★★★★

## Broadcasting blueprint IBA rejects Thatcher ideas

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

A blueprint for ITV in the 1990s which directly challenges the Government's broadcasting philosophy and specifically rejects three of the Prime Minister's most favoured plans for television was produced yesterday by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

In sharp contrast to present Cabinet thinking, the IBA is vociferously opposed to selling off ITV franchises to the highest bidder in 1992. The auctioning idea would "undermine public service broadcasting on ITV", it says.

Similarly the IBA, which currently controls the existing ITV network of 15 regional stations, argues against Government plans to allow Channel 4 to sell its own advertising airtime, opting for the status quo.

But most surprisingly of all, the IBA continues to be against a Broadcasting Stan-

dards Council, the Government's new television watchdog and a Conservative manifesto pledge, which will be established this summer. The "additional quango ...

If it is to survive, Thames, largest of the ITV companies, must cut 200 jobs and remove all restrictive practices this year to save at least £4 million a year, its 2,300 workers were told yesterday (Our Media Editor writes).

would not be an effective means of enforcing standards", it says.

Instead the IBA, which is anxious to preserve its regulatory role, proposes the novel idea of football-style "yellow cards" and "red cards" — and possible fines — for ITV companies who breach standards of taste, decency, programme quality or political impartiality, with the ultimate

penalty being the termination of a contract.

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, who retires as chairman of the IBA at the end of the year, did little yesterday to camouflage the difference of opinion between the authority and the Government over the future of broadcasting.

"In the IBA's opinion it is high time that the interests of the viewers were placed at the centre of the debate on broadcasting," he said. We put the viewer right at the forefront and all other objectives should be tested against this."

In spite of producing their long-awaited policy statement, Independent Television in the 1990s, only weeks before Cabinet ministers are expected to complete their White Paper on broadcasting, Lord Thomson is hoping to

Continued on page 24, col 7

## Five die in fierce Israel border fight

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Two Israeli soldiers, one of them a Lieutenant-Colonel, were killed in a battle in which three gunmen who tried to infiltrate Israel from south Lebanon before dawn yesterday also died.

Two other Israeli soldiers were wounded, one seriously, in the fierce clash between the gunmen and a patrol of the elite Givati Brigade.

The patrol found the three infiltrators' tracks on the western slopes of Har Dov. After a chase involving helicopters, the three were tracked down 200 yards from the security border fence, and the patrol charged, led by its battalion commander. He died as the gunmen fired a missile and three grenades before the patrol overwhelmed them.

Major-General Yossi Peled, the commander of the northern region, said later it was essential for soldiers to carry out these charges to be sure of

killing infiltrators and preventing them reaching Israeli border settlements.

A statement by the "National Resistance Front" in Beirut later claimed the raid had been mounted by Palestinian and Lebanese commandos.

This is the eleventh attempt to infiltrate Israel since a Palestinian hang-glider pilot carried out a suicide raid last November.

Journalists punished: Two senior American journalists yesterday had their official government press accreditation taken away for failing to submit reports to the military censor which claimed Israel had been behind the killing in Tunis of Khalil al-Wazir, the PLO's military commander.

The two, Glenn Frankel of The Washington Post and Martin Fletcher of NBC, were told that they would both be able to continue to report from Israel.

Mr Roh has successfully kept himself above the mud-slinging, but the future of his administration may depend upon whether the elections are perceived to have been fair. In particular, his opponents were watching closely for the result from Cheju.

● Blaze death: An opposition campaign worker in Taegu died yesterday when five Democratic Justice Party supporters set him alight after he poured paint thinner over himself and dared them to carry out a death threat.

## Here is the result of tomorrow's general election

From Gavin Bell

An appalling blunder by a local television station has sparked a violent controversy over general elections that are regarded as crucial to South Korea's political stability.

The state-controlled MBC network, on the southern island of Cheju, started viewers on Monday night by announcing a result — 12 hours before the polls opened. To make matters worse, it gave victory to the ruling party candidate by a big margin.

Embarrassed MBC executives said the brief transmission had been a technical error by engineers during a rehearsal for live broadcasting of the actual ballot-counting.

But opposition leaders, backed by

militant students, protested that it was evidence of an attempt by the ruling Democratic Justice Party to manipulate the results by computer fraud.

Within hours of the television "leak", several hundred demonstrators took to the streets in Cheju to protest against what they perceived as electoral fraud. As polling began, students at Yonsei University in Seoul clashed with riot police. Thousands were reported to be planning a bigger demonstration for today.

No matter how innocent the mistake may have been, Democratic Justice Party officials must have been shaking their heads yesterday and wondering what more could go wrong.

On the eve of the poll, they ordered their candidate in the south-eastern town of Andong to resign after nearly

4,000 envelopes stuffed with money and campaign leaflets were discovered being posted to voters. Three DJP agents were reported to the police for allegedly giving out similar envelopes in the south-western town of Mokpo.

Despite the furore the ruling party was expected to retain control of the enlarged 299-seat National Assembly by a reduced majority.

Early returns gave the Democratic Justice Party a commanding lead, but not sufficient to ensure an absolute majority. By midnight, partial returns showed the DJP leading in only 86 seats, with no results declared in 20 constituencies. The turn-out was relatively low, and estimated at 72.6 per cent, compared with 89.2 per cent in the presidential election.

## Nestlé in £2.1bn battle for Rowntree

By David Brewerton

A European takeover battle for Rowntree, the York confectionery and food group, is under way after a £2.1 billion bid from Nestlé was launched yesterday.

Rowntree rejected the approach and declared its determination to remain independent. Mr Kenneth Dixon, the group chairman, said: "The offer from Nestlé is unwelcome and does not reflect the value of Rowntree's unique collection of international brands."

The Nestlé offer had been widely expected. Two weeks ago, another Swiss food group, Jacobs Suchard, pounced to acquire a 15 per cent shareholding in Rowntree. A number of City institutions sold at 630p, compared with the 890p a share offered by Nestlé.

The stock market is now expecting the two Swiss giants to battle for Rowntree, and few are hopeful that Rowntree will retain its independence.

Nestlé has been operating in Britain for 120 years, but has built only a 2 per cent share of the confectionery market, its major product being Milky Bar chocolate.

Rowntree, by contrast, has 24 per cent of the market, where its leading brand, KitKat, is second only to Mars in sales. Other big-selling Rowntree products are Quality Street, Smarties, Black Magic, After Eight, Rolos and Polos.

Rowntree's market share puts it in third place in the £5 billion a year market after Cadbury Schweppes and Mars. Nestlé and Suchard are also-rans in Britain.

Herr Helmut Maucher, managing director of Nestlé, put it like this: "Rowntree is strong in the UK. Nestlé not too much so."

The Nestlé offer sent the Rowntree share price soaring 178p to 928p — well above the bid's value because dealers expect a counter offer from Suchard.

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## Merseyside to get NI print plant

A printing works is to be built by News International at one of Britain's unemployment blackspots, it was announced yesterday. The plant, on a 29-acre site at Knowsley, Merseyside, will come into operation in 1990. It will print all the company's titles (*The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun*, *News of the World*, and *Today*) and distribute them throughout the Midlands and north of England.

Hundreds of jobs will be created in the building and running of the plant, News International said last night. Agreement was reached with the Labour-controlled Knowsley Borough Council after talks with the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Jim Keight, the council leader, said: "This is the largest development that the borough has attracted since its creation in 1974". Building is due to start on the Knowsley Industrial Estate in the autumn, and is expected to take about 12 months. The area has an jobless rate of more than 20 per cent.

## Open pit opposed

A proposed 300-acre open-cast mine at Pont Einion, near Northop, North Wales, would have such serious environmental effects that the landscape would not recover for several generations, a report concludes. The findings of the "environmental impact assessment" by Richards Moorehead and Laing, the consulting engineers, of Ruthin, Clwyd, emerge soon before the coming into force, due on July 3, of an EEC directive requiring such assessments for many planning applications. The report was commissioned by Delyn borough council, which has recommended that the application by British Coal should be refused.

## Windmill problem

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday that the options suggested by the opponents of nuclear power had themselves raised serious environmental problems. He told the Institute of Energy in London that the Government had put £120 million into research into alternative energy sources and added: "The tidal barrage schemes could have serious impacts on bird and marine life, and some people argue that windmills are far more intrusive on the countryside than any large power station."

## Jail control 'struggle'

Prison officers say they are struggling to keep control at Ford open prison, West Sussex. Mr Steve Stone, Prison Officers' Association branch chairman, told a public meeting in Arundel that staff had been threatened with broken bottles, and that one prisoner had come close to gouging out an officer's eye with a ball-point pen. He said that violent prisoners were being "dumped" in open cells designed for non-dangerous offenders, and added: "One group of lifers were told they were to return to a closed prison and grabbed bottles and pens and were only disarmed after a long struggle."

## £500 for hurt feelings

A man who claimed sexual discrimination when he was refused a job selling lingerie, was awarded £500 for injured feelings by an industrial tribunal in Glasgow yesterday. Mr Steven Rowan, aged 26, of Hadley Gardens, Southall, Middlesex, was turned down for the job at an Etam shop in Glasgow last year. Etam said contact with customers in a state of undress was inappropriate for a male.

## Sunday shops check

The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers is to prosecute councils which fail to take action against shops trading illegally on Sundays. At its conference yesterday, the union also called for Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, to enforce the Shops Act, 1950. "Refusal to do so encourages an increasing number of shop owners to break the law on Sundays", it said. The union's legal department will gather evidence to enable it to take action in the courts against councils "who will not act upon their responsibilities".

# Evangelicals move towards unity with Rome

By Clifford Longley  
Religious Affairs Editor

More than 500 senior Evangelical churchmen, including 65 from the General Synod of the Church of England, have signed a public statement calling on the Pope to renounce such traditional titles as "Vicar of Christ", "successor of the Prince of the Apostles" and "Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church".

They "dare to hope" for such a gesture, they say, as it would reassure them that a remodelled form of the papacy, which they say they might be able to accept, was possible.

Their statement is the strongest indication so far that they are prepared to envisage unity with Roman Catholics in a united church led by a reformed papacy, and marks a significant step towards

unity between the two churches. Evangelicals inherit the Protestant tradition in the Anglican Church, and are traditionally the least enthusiastic towards the Pope.

It has been remarked in recent years that the present Pope does not himself favour the more flowery of his many titles, although "supreme pontiff" (which literally means "chief bridge-builder") is still in use.

The Evangelicals do approve of the Pope's ancient title, "Servant of the Servants of God", however, as an image of pastoral service. And they are prepared to consider a papal role in a united church analogous to that played by the Archbishop of Canterbury in their own church, or the Ecumenical Patriarch in the Orthodox church.

The full range of Evangelical opinion in Anglicanism appears to be represented among the signatories. It is addressed to all the

diocesan bishops of the communion, who are meeting at the Lambeth Conference this summer.

The Evangelical statement takes the form of a long commentary on the official doctrinal agreements issued by the two Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commissions (known as ARCIC) over the past 15 years. These it broadly welcomes while raising numerous technical questions and making suggestions for improvement.

On the papacy, which has always been seen as the biggest Evangelical objection to unity between the Anglican and Roman Catholic communions, the signatories declare: "We are not at all convinced that an earthly pastor with universal oversight is desirable."

They would, however, "contemplate" a leadership role similar to that exercised by the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Ecumenical

Patriarch, which was understood as "a certain seniority... to be understood in terms not of coercion but of pastoral service".

The point of such a role would be to express "historical continuity, visible unity, personal affection, and a ministry of brotherly support, but not papal infallibility or universal jurisdiction". Elsewhere, the statement says the claim to papal infallibility "must surely be subject to the supreme authority of Scripture", and it remarks that the Roman Catholic Church now recognizes, "or is very close to recognizing", the principle of scriptural supremacy.

The statement suggests that the commission should now prepare an outline of the form which any official relationship with the Roman Catholic Church could take, and it asks for a definition of the goal of "full visible communion".

Both the Vatican and the Lambeth Conference are due to make a formal judgment on the ARCIC statements this year, after all the episcopal conferences and provinces of the two churches have contributed their views.

The statement, which would have been almost inconceivable 25 years ago, will be taken as setting down a number of markers for future negotiations between the churches. Evangelical opinion in the Anglican Communion has become notably more sympathetic to the idea of Anglican-Catholic reunion since the publication last year of the ARCIC agreed statement on "justification by faith alone", an issue which had been their main sticking point.

The names of 25 bishops are appended to the statement as expressing their "general sympathy" with it.

## Thatcher rebukes Haughey on Ulster

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister sharply rebuked Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, yesterday for his criticism of British policy in Ulster.

She exposed clear differences between Downing Street and the Foreign Office over the approach to Irish affairs when she said she hoped that Mr Haughey's speech to Irish republican sympathizers in New York last week did not mean the Irish government was backing away from its security responsibilities under the Anglo-Irish agreement.

She agreed with Mr Michael Mates, Conservative MP for Hampshire East, who suggested Mr Haughey's remarks were irresponsible.

Mrs Thatcher, who pointedly abandoned the conciliatory approach taken by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, infuriated the opposition parties, provoking Mr Kevin McNamara, Labour's Northern Ireland spokesman, to shout angrily at her across the floor of the Commons.

Conservative MPs concluded that Mrs Thatcher could not have been pleased with Sir Geoffrey's speech in Derby last Friday when, in response to Mr Haughey's attack, he said that he did not underestimate the "hurt" felt by the Irish in recent months.

Parliament, page 10

## Hunt for arsonist at ordnance depot

By Craig Seton

An arsonist is suspected of starting the second big fire in five years at the Army's central ordnance depot at Donnington, Shropshire, where yesterday 50 detectives and Ministry of Defence police began investigations.

Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, said the fire on Monday that caused millions of pounds worth of damage in a 10-acre covered storage depot and led to an asbestos pollution alert was the second that day in the same building.

He said: "The fact that there were two fires in the same building within a few hours of each other leads one to the conclusion that arson should not be ruled out."

As the police investigation began at the military supplies depot near Telford, one of Nato's largest, more than 100 council workers wearing protective clothing started clearing asbestos dust.

The first fire on Monday in the giant, hangar-like building housing vehicles and technical equipment was seen at 11.30am. Its cause was not known. Then, at 3.15pm almost 200 workers were cleared as the second fire took hold in a different part of the same building.

In 1983 another fire in a similar building caused damage estimated at £150 million and spread asbestos debris over a wide area. That blaze led to an internal Ministry of Defence investigation. Recommendations for greater security against fire risks were still being implemented in building B1, scene of the latest fires.

The Armed Forces minister also rejected a call from Mr Bruce Grogan, the constituency MP for a public inquiry. Mr Freeman said there would be an internal inquiry.



Council workers wearing protective clothing clear asbestos debris yesterday after the fire.

## Ridley launches Heseltine attack

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Mr Nicholas Ridley yesterday criticized his former Cabinet colleague Mr Michael Heseltine, who as Environment Secretary accused of instigating the Conservative rebellion against the poll tax.

The attack highlighted the Secretary of State for the Environment's anger at the role played by Mr Heseltine in opposing the measure and the Cabinet's suspicion of his wider motives and leadership ambitions.

Mr Ridley said: "It is always interesting to hear how people's views change when freed from the cares of office."

He said an example was a recent open letter written to him by Mr Heseltine, a former Environment Secretary, in which he protested that the South-east was being "torn up and torn apart" by development.

He told the annual lunch of the Building Materials Producers in London that they had to help improve the climate of understanding within the construction industry about mounting public concern over new developments.

Amendments are certain to

## Central control of education rejected

By Our Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday quashed Conservative hopes of cutting poll tax bills by removing education spending from local authority control.

Conservatives with misgivings about the community charge believe its effects could be mitigated by reducing the proportion of council spending financed locally.

It is argued that the greater the sum financed centrally by taxation, the easier it is for the Government to argue that funding of local government takes account of ability to pay.

The leaders of the Conservative rebellion on the poll tax meet tomorrow to consider their tactics for the Bill's passage in the Lords, and to select a senior peer, possibly Lord Pym, the former foreign secretary, to approach to head their efforts.

Amendments are certain to

be tabled to take education off the rates. The move would have the backing of many in the Commons who have voted reluctantly for the Bill so far.

Yesterday Mr Hal Miller, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove, asked in the Commons for the Prime Minister to look again at the possibility of financing education centrally.

But she said there was no way the Department of Education and Science could administer the entire system; it would mean complete central control of education, which would not be desirable.

The community charge Bill was introduced into the Lords yesterday. Seventeen Conservatives voted against its third reading in the Commons, and a further 20 were thought to have deliberately abstained.

Parliament, page 10

## Hospital may dismiss two consultants

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Two consultants are expected to be dismissed at a London teaching hospital as part of a package of health service cuts designed to save more than £3 million.

The package which includes 137 redundancies among medical, nursing, administrative and ancillary staff at St Thomas's Hospital, south London, was agreed after a seven-hour meeting of West Lambeth health authority on Monday night.

The authority also supported a 25 per cent reduction in outpatient appointments which will cut attendances by 60,000 a year.

Mr John Garnett, chairman of the authority said yesterday that there could be 50 compulsory redundancies. Because of existing nursing shortages no nurses would lose their jobs. Four consultants would be offered early retirement and two more were likely to be dismissed.

General managers have been asked to identify a further £500,000 savings to stay within legal cash limits.

The authority has already asked the South-East Thames Regional Health Authority to help it with an additional overspend of £2.8 million carried forward from last year.

Meanwhile the final battle to save Westminster Hospital opens tomorrow when an alternative scheme for the district's health services is announced.

Riverside Health Authority plans to close the hospital and three others to concentrate services in a new 700-bed complex to be built at St Stephen's Hospital, Fulham, south-west London.

The fully-costed scheme proposes a new Westminster Hospital on the site of the medical school and nurses' home in Marsham Street. Money would be raised by redeveloping the old hospital and Westminster Children's Hospital for homes and offices.

The Page Street building would become a bigger children's hospital.

Businesses should help elderly patients beat NHS waiting lists by sponsoring private hip operations, Mrs Edwina Currie said yesterday.

The Under Secretary of

State for Health welcomed the decision by a magazine for pensioners, *Retirement World*, to cancel its launch party to pay for a £4,000 hip replacement operation for one of its readers.

Mrs Margaret Law, aged 75, from Moseley, West Midlands, had been told by her general practitioner that she would have to wait three years for NHS surgery. "The Government welcomes any co-operation between the public and the private sectors which can be of benefit to the patients", Mrs Currie said.

Her comments were criticized by Mr Robin Cook, Labour's social services spokesman, who said the magazine's action was in bad taste. "It is an outrage and demeaning. Patients deserve to expect their operations as of right and not to assist in commercial stunts."

Mr Jim Robbins, managing director of the magazine, said: "If we can sponsor one person for an operation what could the industrial giants do for their own pensioners?"

The Department of Health and Social Security said: "When old people are ill and

in pain it is all they can often think about. We see nothing wrong with private businesses sponsoring operations."

Several health authorities are approaching businesses for sponsorship. Mr Peter Davidson, income generation officer at Worcester and District health authority, said: "If there is sponsorship cash available health authorities should also be trying to attract it."

He was addressing a meeting on health care in the Pacific. In Pacific firms should keep their informed to

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# LEUKAEMIA

## The fight goes on

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LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH FUND

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# Review of schools' race policy likely after fatal stabbing

By Ian Smith

Policies adopted by schools throughout the country to prevent racial tension may be reviewed after an official inquiry into the death of an Asian pupil who was stabbed in a Manchester secondary school playground.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, will study an inquiry report describing the paradox existing at Burnage High School where Asian pupil Ahmed Ullah, aged 13, was murdered by a white pupil two years ago.

The report, compiled by Mr Ian Macdonald, QC, says while the governors and teachers were committed to anti-racist policies, the school declined to racial conflict and polarization.

Responsibility, the report says, lay with senior school managers who over-zealously interpreted racial harmony guidelines set down by Labour-controlled Manchester City Council.

As yet the report has not been published; the city council has been advised that the contents may be libellous. Instead a non contentious version will be given to the education committee at its meeting next month.

Meanwhile, teachers and non-teaching staff at Burnage High School are due to meet tonight when teachers' representatives will urge immediate publication.

The meeting is expected to take up a proposal made yesterday by the Labour Party.

In a document entitled *Parents in Partnership*, the party calls on education authorities to draw up home-school contracts spelling out the responsibilities and rights of schools and parents.

It says all parents should have the right to a prospectus setting out what their children will be taught, what books they should read and how much homework they should do.

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# Farmer wages Chernobyl war



Mr Arthur Lancaster, who is seeking £27,000 in compensation because of the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear power station accident, with his sheep dog, Nell, and a newborn lamb on his farm at Wasdale, in the Lake District, yesterday.

Lancaster's 1,600 sheep are still subject to government-imposed restrictions because of fallout from the accident two years ago. However, the ministry has

refused to pay further compensation. The plight of Mr Lancaster and 65 of his colleagues in Cumbria was presented yesterday to a special session of the Commons select committee on agriculture, meeting at Carlisle, which is investigating the handling of the incident, the monitoring of fallout and compensation schemes. The National Farmers' Union told the committee that outstanding

claims amounted to £500,000. Mr Lancaster, aged 42, who lives at Wood Haw Farm with his wife and three daughters, said he had received initial compensation of £1,500 but further claims had been repeatedly rejected. The committee will meet today at Bangor, North Wales, where another 56 farmers are awaiting compensation claims.

(Photograph: Barry Greenwood).

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## Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Winner to go south for spree

Mrs Dorett Cobblett, a housewife from Newcastle upon Tyne is the sole winner of the daily Portfolio prize of £4,000.

Mrs Cobblett, of The Drive, Gosforth, says she intends sharing the money with her two daughters, who are in their twenties, and her husband, a solicitor.

"I have been playing the competition almost since it began, but I never thought I would win anything. I will give some to each of the family and keep £1,000 for myself."

"We have already booked our holiday so I think I will just have to go south and have a good spend," she said.

## School 'failed to copy rivals on insurance'

Most schools playing rugby against Bedford School had insured their pupils for accidental injury by November 1980, the High Court heard yesterday.

There was one other school that had not adopted such a policy when Mr Simon van Oppen, then a Bedford pupil, was left crippled for life by a tackle that went wrong. He claims it was the school's negligence in failing to insure him that left him without a penny in compensation for the spine injury he suffered.

Mr Christopher Wilson-Smith, QC, for Mr van Oppen, now aged 24, said if Bedford had done the same as most of the other schools it could be said it had exercised its duties reasonably. But, although aware of the position of the others, it was significant it had "done nothing" to arrange a policy as soon as it could, he told Mr Justice Boreham.

He was speaking on the twenty-fourth day of Mr van Oppen's claim for damages from the school which he also alleges was negligent in not coaching him properly.

The action, in which the school trustees deny liability, is expected to end today.

# Private schools' record high

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

A record number of children are attending private schools even though total school rolls are falling and fees have risen by 31 per cent over the past three years, the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS) said yesterday.

The 560,000 children at 2,500 fee-paying schools total more than 7 per cent of the school population, compared with 5.8 per cent 10 years ago.

A survey conducted by ISIS in January shows a small switch from full boarding to weekly boarding and a 2.3 per cent rise in the number of day pupils.

The biggest overall increase was in the number of children aged between two and eight, up by 5 per cent. At the other end of the age range, private schools now account for 18 per cent of sixth formers.

Fees for boarders averaged £5,685 at the leading public

schools and £4,300 at preparatory schools. Day school fees averaged £2,350 at public schools and £2,130 at preparatory schools.

ISIS said last year's 11 per cent increase in fees reflected the teachers' pay award; the generous staffing policy of independent schools, resulting in an average pupil-teacher ratio of 11.6:1; and increased capital investment, equivalent to £295 a pupil.

Mr Jack Straw, the Labour Party spokesman on education, attributed the growing popularity of independent schools to the "Government's relentless assault on public confidence in the state education system".

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# £1.3bn offer to Dalkon shield victims

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The American makers of the Dalkon shield contraceptive have offered £1.3 billion compensation to women allegedly harmed by the device.

About 200,000 women, including 3,000 to 4,000 in Britain, have lodged claims against A H Robins. The shield has been linked with serious pelvic infection, sterility, septic abortion and ectopic pregnancy. It has also allegedly caused death.

The offer, disclosed yesterday as part of a financial reorganization plan for Robins, which was forced into

bankruptcy in 1985 by the worldwide legal actions, is to be put to all claimants in a ballot.

If two-thirds accept by July 11 the settlement is expected to be ratified by a court in Virginia, United States, on July 18.

Yesterday Mr Bob Manchester, the American lawyer handling claims for some 2,000 women, 1,500 of them in Britain, said the company had originally mentioned a total sum of about £325 million. "We will be writing to advise women that they

should be prepared to accept."

Each claimant will have to prove that she used the shield and that it caused the alleged damage.

Mr Manchester said he expected forms to be submitted to claimants by the autumn with the first court hearings early next year and "substantial money for clients" paid out during 1989. In this country claims range from £1,000 to more than £200,000.

Mr Manchester said: "There have been children born with major complications of delivery such as

cerebral palsy. Young people in their teens and early twenties have had complete hysterectomies, with all the problems of early menopause."

Mr Michael Napier, one of the solicitors co-ordinating claims in this country, said yesterday that although some 100,000 British women were believed to have used the device, only 3,000 to 4,000 filed claims.

A meeting to discuss the offer was held in Manchester last night, others will be held in Birmingham and London.

Mr Christopher Wilson-Smith, QC, for Mr van Oppen, now aged 24, said if Bedford had done the same as most of the other schools it could be said it had exercised its duties reasonably. But, although aware of the position of the others, it was significant it had "done nothing" to arrange a policy as soon as it could, he told Mr Justice Boreham.

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# Stress can cost firms billions

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Stress-related illness is costing industry billions of pounds a year through absenteeism and inefficiency. In the early 1980s the figure was £4 billion a year, the chairman of the Health and Safety Commission said yesterday.

Dr John Cullen said the commission was placing increasing emphasis on occupational health. Its importance was only now being recognized.

Industry was well aware of the need to maintain equipment and buildings, it made for both safety and efficiency. "People maintenance" paid similar dividends and this message must be widely appreciated, Dr Cullen said.

He was addressing a conference on health care in business, in Peebles, Borders. Firms should keep employees fully informed of developments in technology. New processes vital to an industry's future could be held up if fears were established. Such fears could multiply out of all proportion, Dr Cullen said.

Employers had a responsibility, as well as a clear interest, in reducing stresses of the job by giving workers confidence in their working environment.

Several health business approaches were being pioneered, Mr Peter Peck, chairman of the Health and Safety Commission, said yesterday. Some were aimed at reducing stress, others at improving health care.

Mr Gary Gill, the centre's aquatic supervisor, said yesterday: "They were extremely

popular, and demand was so great that the price shot up from 75p to 99p per tadpole."

"There is a lot of executive housing around here. Some of the garden ponds are like lakes, and herons and cats stealing stock is a terrible problem. This seemed an ideal solution because no cat in its right mind would go near this thing."

Mr Tony Tynan, secretary of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust and director of the Hancock Natural History Museum in Newcastle, said the tadpoles, imported from Missouri, could wreck the delicate ecological balance of

ponds, already under threat from man.

"They would eat other frogs, and newts. The great crested newt is already rare enough without having another foreign predator."

Mr Barry Clarke, of the reptiles and amphibians section at the Natural History Museum in London, said the tadpoles, which were up to four inches long, were *Rana catesbeiana*, the largest known species of frog in North America, which was known to eat small birds, young snakes, insects, crayfish, minnows, mice, voles and other frogs.

# Marriage given a vote of confidence

By Ruth Gledhill

Marriage as an institution is fighting back, despite a rising divorce rate and growing disillusion with relationships, a survey by the Marriage Research Council shows.

Researchers followed 65 couples through the first six years of married life and discovered marriage still firmly rooted in their ideals.

But many were confused when it came to what exactly marriage should be and felt their threatened by pressures on their relationships.

At the annual conference of the council, a registered charity set up for research and counselling, at the Royal College of Physicians in London, two sociologists, Miss Penny Mansfield and Mrs Jean Polard, disclosed early results from the nine-year project. They were surprised to discover that the ideal of marriage is still firmly rooted as an institution, despite the rising divorce rate.

Of the 65 couples studied, only eight have split up, compared to the average divorce rate of one in three. The researchers found among the couples, three months and six years after they married, a strong belief in marriage as an institution, and a "surprising willingness" to take on the "shackles" of domestic life.

Most of the couples married because it conferred adulthood and status and gave a

purpose to their lives and work.

Few married because they had found the perfect relationship and many were happy to give up the burden of "freedom" which went with a single life. It was only later that the quality of the relationship became important.

Miss Mansfield said: "The curious thing was that so few people gave stories about being in love. What they talked about was in terms of being ready to settle down and to make a commitment."

"A lot of what is written about marriage implies that it has changed. It is not marriage that has changed, but the rhetoric of relationships. This is quite a dilemma for modern couples."

"Prevailing opinions seem to stress independence and self-fulfilment and the importance of individual relationships."

People went into marriage because they believed in the institution. It was only in the course of their married lives, that their attention turned to their relationship.

Mr Christopher Clulow, chairman of the Institute of Marital Studies at the Tavistock Centre, and co-author of a book about marriage to be published next year, told the conference: "People are still seeing marriage as desirable."

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- Have never used high pressure tactics or touts (OPCs) to sell.

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- TDA members are only required to provide a 5-day minimum cooling off period for all their customers.
- The TDA Developer may hold all customers' monies which could leave the customers' funds unprotected.
- The TDA has no provision for the protection of customers' management fund.
- Several of the well-known TDA members have been dubbed "timeshare sharks" by the National Press.
- Some TDA members are off-shore companies with little capitalisation and no reporting requirements.
- Major TDA members have had complaints about their offers upheld against them by the advertising authorities.
- Some major TDA members use high pressure tactics and touts (OPCs) to sell - need we say more?

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## Drastic steps sought to ease overcrowded sky

# Safety is key to expected rise in air traffic demand

By Harvey Elliott  
Air Correspondent

Fundamental changes in the way international flights are organized must be made if the increased demand for air travel is to be met safely, MPs were told yesterday.

Many of the measures which are necessary to accommodate the predicted increase must be faced if safety and the long-term health of the industry are to be maintained, according to the Civil Aviation Authority.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, chairman of the authority, told the Commons select committee on transport yesterday that safety requirements meant that for the next few years there would be inevitable flight delays while new air traffic control procedures, equipment and working practices were introduced.

The measures would be able to cope with increased demand in the late 1990s, after which a detailed reappraisal of the duties and responsibilities of the CAA, together with important changes in government thinking, would be needed.

Among possible solutions were fewer aircraft carrying more people, an easing of night-flying restrictions and curbs on private or recrea-

British Airways started a month-long trial smoking ban yesterday on its Glasgow-Heston flights.

For many travellers, only one hour without a cigarette was almost too much to bare. As they left the first flight into London from Glasgow, some were already lighting up.

Mr Alastair Robertson,

national flying. Flights might also be directed to a particular airport, depending on destination. For example, east-bound flights might leave from Stansted, south-bound from Gatwick and west-bound from Heathrow.

Mr Tugendhat said in a report to the committee that curbs on airline flights would be anti-competitive. Easing night-flying restrictions would cause an environmental outcry, while restrictions on private flying would be contrary to existing policy under which all users of air space are treated equally.

"Sectorization" of airports, so that traffic flowed in one direction, would be fiercely resisted, particularly by foreign airlines. It would prevent full freedom of choice for passengers, the report said.

It said the CAA had

from Glasgow, a 20 a day man, said: "Lack of I was forewarned and so I was mentally prepared. But I'm really looking forward to this cigarette."

Mrs JH Docherty, from London, said: "It's a terrific idea. I think a smoking ban should be extended to all public places. Smoking is a disgusting habit."

launched a big internal research project into possible changes. A full report would be submitted to the Government later this year.

"It will be necessary for government to provide a clear and coherent framework of policy embracing and establishing priorities between, all the main elements of the equation and this will clearly require some hard decisions to be taken."

Mr Tugendhat said present concern over air misses was only a small part of the problem. The number of commercial aircraft involved in risk-bearing air misses had not changed significantly in the past three years and was much lower than 10 years ago.

There were 11.3 air misses for every 100,000 hours flown in 1977, 2.6 in 1984, 2.9 in 1985 and 2.8 in 1986.

Changes were being negotia-

ted with air traffic controllers in an attempt to concentrate more effectively the number of trained staff on duty at peak times. This had led to "a great deal of debate and some apportionment amongst those engaged in air traffic control". Although agreement had been reached on big pay increases, these had not been implemented pending detailed local manning agreements.

The report rejected suggestions that air traffic controllers were over-worked. It said that many were doing a second job in their spare time, a practice which could be outlawed.

Growth in air traffic would mean that far more controllers would be needed, although changes in working practices would lead to a notional cutback of about 70 jobs. Recruiting targets had been doubled.

The report rejected claims by the Institute of Professional Civil Servants, which represents the controllers, that military airspace could be made available to ease overcrowding.

"In the South-east, where the greatest pressures are currently evident, there are no military training areas in the upper air space. At lower levels, resistance to expansion of controlled air space comes mainly from flying clubs and gliding enthusiasts."

## Appeal for steam train



The King George V locomotive, once the pride of the Great Western Railway, may be saved from enforced retirement by enthusiasts who are launching a £50,000 appeal next month.

The 140-tonne locomotive has been in the care of the Railway Museum at Didcot, which leased it from the National Railway Museum in York 15 years ago.

However, the company no longer wishes to sponsor it. The 6000 Locomotive Association, named after the engine's number and made up of steam enthusiasts such as Mr John Phipps (above), is negotiating to take over the lease. It hopes to raise funds for the seven-yearly boiler refit it needs to keep its certificate to run on

British Rail tracks. The locomotive was built in 1927 and once crossed the Atlantic to celebrate the centenary of the Baltimore and Ohio railway. It was withdrawn from service in 1964. Bulmer used it initially on its factory railway but since British Rail relaxed restrictions on privately-owned locomotives in the 1970s it has carried fare-paying passengers to Chester, Newport, Swindon, Gloucester, Didcot and Plymouth.

Mr Stephen Phipps, chairman of the association, said it would be "terribly sad" to see the locomotive withdrawn again. He was confident the funds would be raised to keep it running. (Photograph: Lindsay Wilson)

## Suburban life draws families from cities

By David Walker  
Public Administration Correspondent

Britain is becoming a country of suburbanites, a study by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys discloses.

The study, published yesterday, shows more and more people live in areas with a density of between 15 and 40 people a hectare (2.47 acres), the sort of concentration usually experienced in suburban districts.

The number of people living in crowded city centres continues to fall, as does the population in remote rural districts where densities can be one person to two hectares.

The highest rate of population growth is in wards with suburban densities. Those living in wards with 50 or more people to the hectare fell by 25 per cent over the 10 years to 1981. In the same decade, the numbers living in rural wards fell by 5 per cent.

London remains the most crowded city in England and Wales. The most densely populated 25 kilometre square at the time of the 1981 census was that covering inner London, with more than 60 people a hectare.

In 1981, inner London had 8.9 million people compared with 6.7 million in 1931. Population Density and Concentration in England and Wales 1971 and 1981 (Stationary Office, £7.60).

## Jury dismissal

The trial of a consultant gynaecologist, Mr Peter Firth, who allegedly claimed fees for visiting the homes of elderly women who were already dead, was adjourned yesterday after Worthing Crown Court was told that a juror knew a prosecution witness. A new jury will be sworn in today.

## Pilot settles

A claim for £750,000 damages by Mr John Craig, aged 50, of Badgers Copse, Seaford, East Sussex, a former airline pilot, who was seriously injured in a crash with a vehicle driven by Mr Brian Craig, of Craig-lachie House, Carbridge, near Aviemore, was settled out of court yesterday.

## Fatal surgery

Stephen Power, aged 18, of Middlesbrough, who died two hours after plastic surgery and bone grafts to improve his appearance, may have been allergic to a painkiller. An inquest was told yesterday. A verdict of misadventure was recorded.

## Beatles action

A High Court action brought by Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Yoko Ono to prevent a record company from selling or distributing an alleged illegally-recorded album by The Beatles was adjourned for 21 days yesterday.

## Shop cleared

A pet shop in Truro, Cornwall did not mislead people into thinking qualified veterinary surgeons were involved by calling itself Vetcare, Bodmin Crown Court decided yesterday.

## Peer faces jail

Lord Molloy, aged 69, former Labour MP for Ealing North, London, was told in the London Divorce Court yesterday that he faces prison in 28 days' time if he fails to give his former wife's solicitors details of his financial affairs.

## Lay-off threat

Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering said yesterday it will start laying off the 12,000 staff at its Barrow-in-Furness yard in Cumbria unless they end an overtime ban.

## Nuclear snub

Cumbria county councillors rejected plans yesterday to store radioactive waste in underground chambers a mile below the Sellafield nuclear processing plant.

## Probation officers criticize curfews

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Probation officers clashed yesterday over proposals for a shift in their traditional role to enforce new sentences, including curfews.

The National Association of Probation Officers said the ideas were unworkable. Mr Bill Beaumont, general secretary, said: "Proposals about operating a curfew and pinning people to their homes amount to a shift in the probation officers' role to a policing role or being 'screws' (prison officers) on wheels."

Mr John Patten, Home Office Minister of State, yesterday told a conference of the Central Council of Probation Committees there was a window of opportunity for the probation service, to increase the range and number of offenders it supervised, which should not be missed.

"This depends on the service having the confidence of the courts and the public. It will require a shift in attitudes and types of work but not in the fundamental values of the service," he said.

He said: "If the courts are to use sentences involving the probation service more, then such disposals must be seen

clearly to demand more of offenders than conventional treatment."

"In some cases there has to be a sufficiently close element of supervision to enable any temptation to offend to be checked. This may mean, for example, requiring an offender to be physically in a certain place at a certain time."

The service already practised control, both in the operation of community service orders and even in the operation of probation orders.

Earlier, on BBC Radio, Mr Patten said: people who

committed non-violent or less serious offences could be put under curfew instead of being sent to overcrowded prisons.

"We want to punish people and control people more in the community and less in prison for non-violent, less serious crimes", Mr Patten said.

Mr Beaumont said there was a careful balance of help and supervision by probation officers. If ministers proceeded in the direction they were going they would be in danger of destroying the balance and producing a demoralized probation service.

## Travel aid for motorists of the future

# 'Thinking radio' means end to knob-twiddling

By Daniel Ward  
Motor Industry Correspondent

The first "smart" car radio has been launched to take advantage of the new European-wide Radio Data System which enables radios to re-tune automatically, identify stations by name and not simply their frequency number, and provide travel news on demand.

Volvo, which announced the first RDS car radio yesterday, believes it will be safer because drivers will no longer be distracted when reception deteriorates and another station must be selected.

In the long term it will be possible for the new generation of radios to interrupt music or interviews with local traffic news. The motorist will also be able to select a type of programme at the start of a journey, leaving the radio to maintain that choice.

Mr Johnny Beertling, chairman of the BBC and European RDS experts group, said yesterday: "I believe within five or six years there will not be a car radio without RDS". Last week the BBC met electrical manufacturers to encourage them to develop a portable radio for the home capable of

accepting the inaudible digital RDS signal.

"I would like to see an RDS home radio on the market within 18 months for about £100", Mr Beertling, controller of Radio One, added. He believes RDS car radios may eventually come down in price to less than £400 though the complete Volvo system will cost almost £800.

Initially, the attraction of RDS is its ability to identify radio stations on the increasingly crowded VHF network. The 25 VHF stations which can be received around London could double in the next three years.

RDS is a rare example of European collaboration, as a standardized signal has been accepted by all countries. For the multi-lingual that will mean being able to listen to travel news automatically when travelling on the Continent.

● An identikit system for cars won a £20,000 award from Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, yesterday for its further development.

The idea, which was put forward by Police Constable Simon Grantham, of the Dorset force, is to help children identify cars which they have been enticed into.

## Free legal help for small businesses

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A scheme to give free legal advice to people starting small businesses has won support from more than 1,000 lawyers. It was launched yesterday at a joint conference of the Law Society and Business in the Community.

The Prince of Wales, president of Business in the Community, sent a statement to the conference in which he said he hoped "the introduction of your new scheme will promote a clearer understanding by the legal profession of the needs and aspirations of small businesses, and that businesses will recognize the added value which solicitors can bring to their enterprises".

Under the Lawyers for Enterprise scheme, a free consultation, which could cover finance, tax, premises, franchising and insurance, is given to the aspiring businessman. Application forms will be available, from June, at town halls, citizens' advice bureaux and Business in the Community agencies.

After the initial interview any further consultations would be paid for as normal.

At the conference in Brighton, south-west London yesterday, Mr Robin Smith, a Law Society council member, said enterprise agencies were creating some 100,000 new jobs a year, but there was a lack of involvement by solicitors.

"This is surprising: research from Southampton enterprise agency has shown that some 33 per cent of problems have a legal content; yet solicitors are hardly involved in dealing with them."

Solicitors were geared to helping medium to large firms, but not small firms, or employees who were leaving to set up on their own.

"We think the scheme fulfils a real need, not only for small businesses, but for solicitors. It will focus their attention on areas of work where they have a large part to play but where, historically, they have not played it."

## Offices 'out of bounds'

The Law Society is trying to stop the public from turning up to complain or ask questions at legal aid offices.

It says staff have been threatened and work disrupted at the 13 area offices. Unrestricted access for legal aid applicants has led many to call, "making prolonged and time-wasting visits", the society says.

It is sending notices to all legal aid applicants asking them not to visit area offices but to write, or if urgent, telephone.

An appointment at a centre might be arranged, only in special circumstances. Solicitors are also being urged to impress on clients that visits without appointments may be a waste of time.

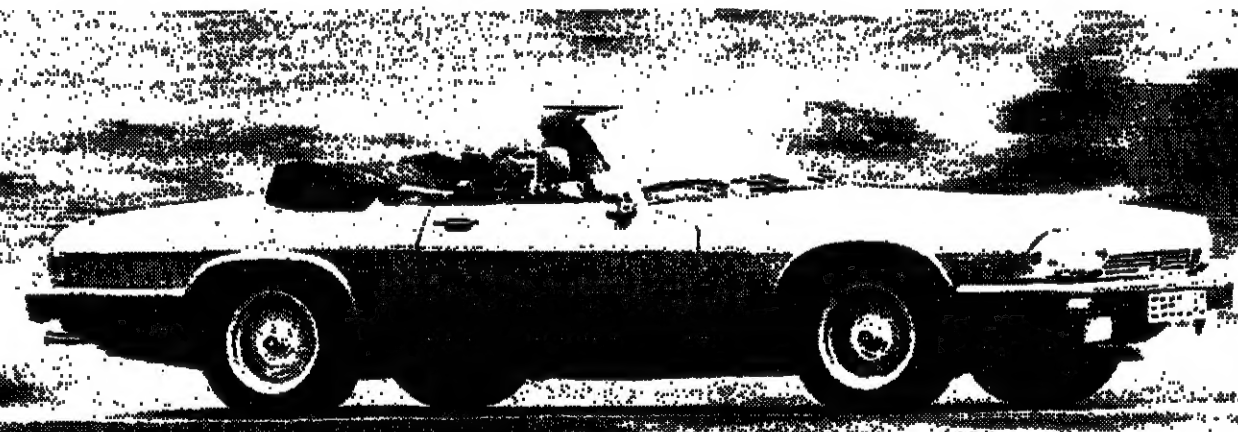
## Graceful launch for Jaguar's £36,000 new car

By Our Motor Industry Correspondent

Grace and not a little pace have been part of the Jaguar ethos since the "Grace, space and pace" advertising slogan appeared in 1946. Today's launch of the XJS convertible, at £36,000, Jaguar's most expensive car, underlines that not much has changed.

The first Jaguar convertible since the legendary E-Type was winning orders before customers had seen it or heard the price. In London, there is a two-year waiting list for the 150 mph, V12 engine car.

Mr Roger Putnam, Jaguar's sales director says: "People who like the best will have a Mont Blanc fountain pen, a Rolex watch and a Jaguar convertible." As disposable income has grown rapidly in Britain, so sales of luxury cars



The Jaguar XJS convertible: 150 mph, electric hood, air conditioning, two-year waiting list (Photograph: Graham Wood).

have almost doubled in the past two years.

Half of the 5,000 convertibles built each year will be exported to the American "sunshine states". The car has

both an electrically operated hood and air conditioning.

Despite appearing to be simply an XJS coupe without a roof, it cost £25 million to develop the convertible ver-

sion, a car that was originally planned in the 1970s but never built until American laws were relaxed more.

The new car is the first Jaguar has developed using a

team management approach with experts collaborating from each discipline in the company. Jaguar attributes the early launch of the car to the success of this scheme.

## Heritage bodies save work for nation

# Tate acquires a rare Stubbs

The Tate Gallery has acquired an important and rare work by George Stubbs, thanks to an initiative by Sotheby's and grants from two heritage bodies.

Painted on a Wedgwood earthenware oval and showing a "Young Gentleman Shooting", his loyal dog watchful at his side, the work is unusual for the artist because it does not feature horses and it is painted with enamels.

The last time such a Stubbs came on to the market was in 1978, when Christie's sold one depicting labourers for £300,000 to Paul Mellon. That price could well have doubled today.

"The owner was having it reappraised for insurance purposes when its tremendous value became apparent", Sotheby's negotiator, Mr Tim Sammons, said yesterday. "He had inherited it from a relative in the early 1970s."

The undisclosed price for

SALE ROOM  
by Sarah Jane Checkland  
Art Market Correspondent

the enamel painting was made up by a £138,608 contribution from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and £25,000 from the National Art-Collections Fund. Sotheby's will be paid a fee.

Miss Judy Egerton, of the Tate, who included the work in her Stubbs exhibition of 1984, said: "He hoped, by painting this way, the colours would stay unchanged". Compared with some of his oil paintings, it is in mint condition.

"Most of Stubbs's enamels repeat subjects already painted in oil. This one is the exception, having been painted especially for enamel."

A Pre-Raphaelite painting by Sir John Everett Millais,

which has been underground for the past 90 years, fetched more than five times its estimate when it emerged at Christie's English drawings and water-colours sale yesterday.

Entitled "The Order of Release" and based on an oil painting now in the Tate Gallery, it shows a killed Highlander being reunited with his wife and child after the Jacobite Rebellion.

Commissioned in 1863 by the dealers Agnew, the painting was last seen at Christie's when Agnew sold it in 1901. It was bought yesterday by Roy Miles, another London dealer.

Another Pre-Raphaelite work, a study of Elizabeth Siddal by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, sold for twice its estimate, at £18,700 to the dealers Hazitt, Gooden and Fox.

It was one of many portraits by the artist of the invalid beauty who became his wife.

## No sell-off at the V&A, says new chairman

By Andrew Billen

Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, the new chairman of the Victoria and Albert Museum, said yesterday that the museum is facing formidable problems, but selling exhibits was not the solution.

Lord Armstrong, who retired as Cabinet Secretary last year, said there was much to be done about the building's fabric.

"The museum has powers as to when it can dispose of items. I do not see it as part of my brief to widen them."

He supported voluntary entrance charges. "We are clearly going to have to find means of raising money other than from the Government."

Lord Armstrong succeeds Lord Carrington, chairman since 1983, who becomes chairman of Christie's at the end of June. Lord Armstrong will remain secretary of the board of directors of the Royal Opera House.

## Liberals defend southern stronghold

By David Walker

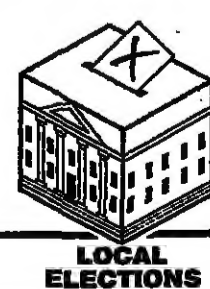
Adur district, the stretch of south coast between Brighton and Worthing, West Sussex, encompassing the old towns of Shoreham and Lancing, is a jewel in the Liberal Party's local government crown.

The Liberals long ago replaced Labour as the opposition to the Conservatives. After 20 years of pavement work, the party broke out of its power base west of the Adur to take control of the district in 1986.

Thanks perhaps to the Liberals, turn-out in Adur is higher than the average, with figures of more than 50 per cent not unusual in some wards.

Thirteen seats are being contested, of which the Liberals hold seven.

Mr Robert Dunn, leader of the Conservatives, said: "The Liberals are politically motivated; they live their politics."



The Tories are old style; they just don't put in the hours."

It will take a considerable push for the Conservatives to gain the four seats they need for control, even assuming two councillors representing Shoreham Beach Residents vote with them. However, Mr Dunn is confident of acquiring at least a slim majority.

Working against them is a nagging uncertainty among Shoreham's older citizens about the effect of the social

security changes and residual anxiety about the health service.

In an area of comparatively modest means among the light industrial estates, Shoreham port and retirement homes, the issue of council finance is being seized on by the Conservatives. Rates went up by 9.1 per cent this month although that was due at least in part to a 10 per cent increase in the demands of the Conservative-controlled county.

Mr Dunn said: "The Liberals have been profligate. Our main plank is that services can be improved while the rates are held down."

Mr Martin King, the Liberal council leader, provides an enthusiastic account of non-dogmatic municipal activism, including recent initiatives to ensure that elderly people are warm in winter and to encourage dog owners to clear up after their pets.

"The cuts in housing benefit

are a doorstep issue; it is the elderly owner occupiers who are being badly hit. Of some 3,500 people getting rate rebates last year, we estimate some 50 per cent are now 'losing out', he said.

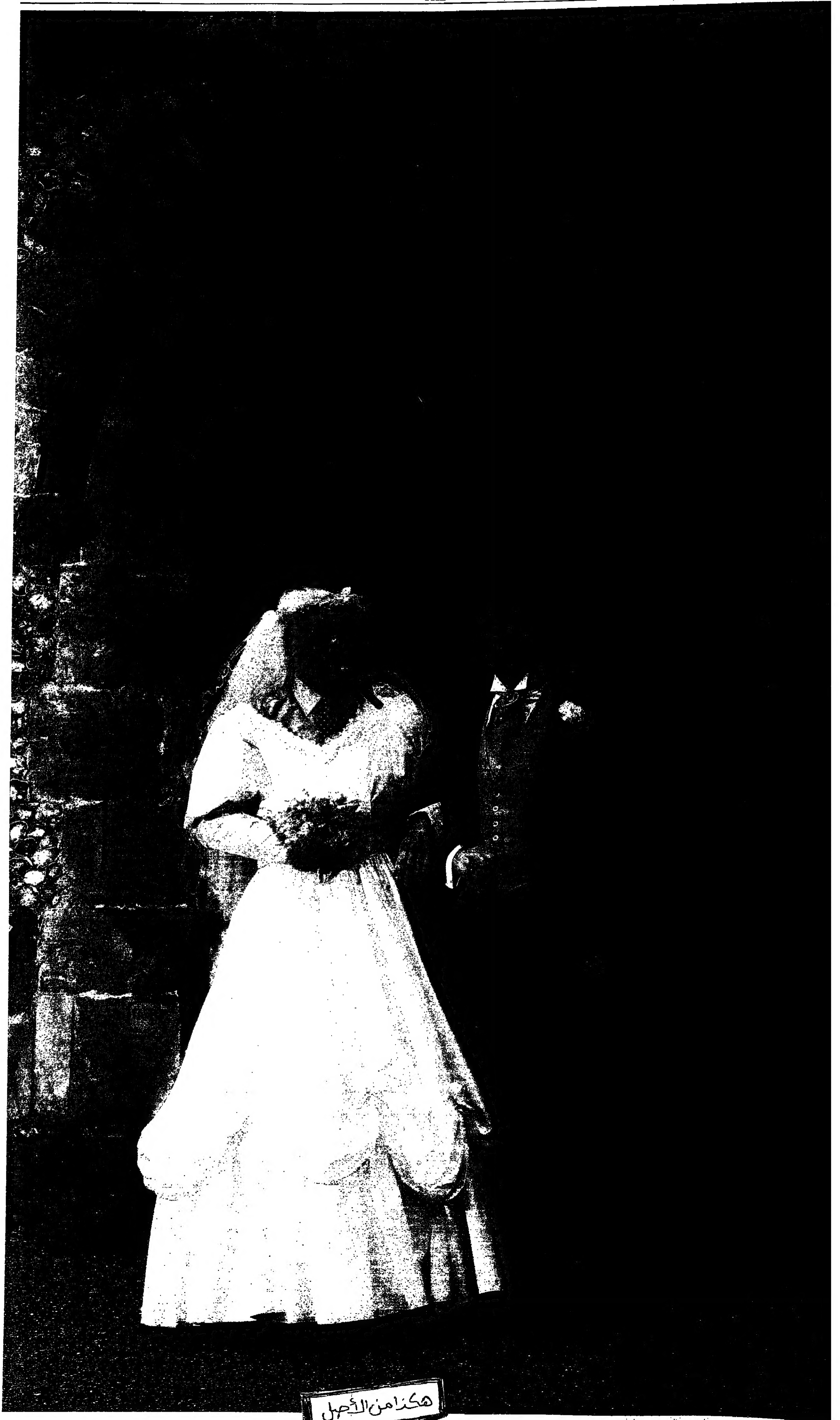
In Southwick, where Mr King is standing, an issue which cuts across party lines is the recent approval given by the Government for the construction of the Brighton by-pass road.

A battle to save Southwick Hill succeeded, but Southwick traders are fearful of competition from an associated superstore.

The Liberals, who are fielding two candidates from the former Social Democratic Party, are untroubled by any Owenite fringe.

They intend keeping close to the pavements in an effort, once again, to keep a blob of yellow in the blue expanse of the South.



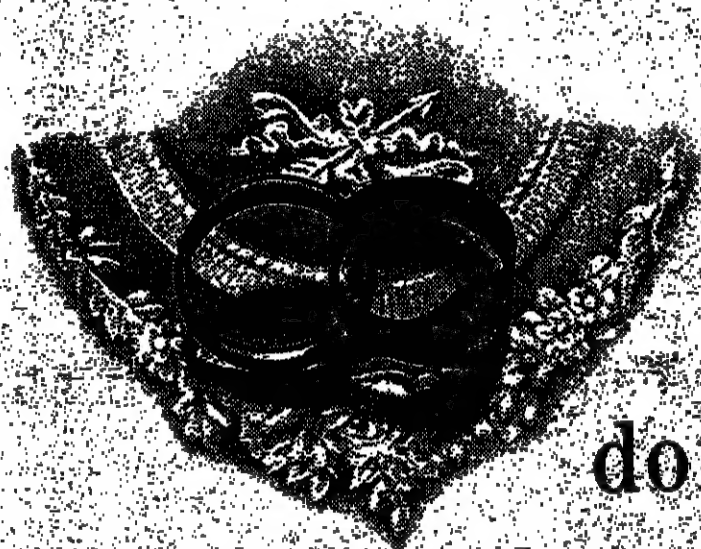


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# Would your life be easier if you'd married the boss?



'FRANKLY, it isn't funny any more. Some days, I leave before Kate gets up and don't get home till she's gone to bed. And, as she says, I'm becoming a stranger to the children. Funny to think that a few years ago I envied people like me.'

Most people would agree that time is the one thing we could all do with more of.

What most people don't realise is that the right communications package is one of the shorter routes to saving time at work.

Unfortunately, given the complexity of business communications today, getting one's hands on the right package isn't exactly easy, is it?

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Everything, in fact, from simple radio pagers to fax machines to the technology that allows complex data to be sent across the country in seconds.

Our problem was how to get the items relevant to you into your hands without wasting your time with the rest.

We were serious enough to call in a leading management consultant and, together, we think we've found a solution.

It's called Workplan and this is how it works:

You phone and ask for Workplan. In a day or so, you'll receive the first stage, which is a business-orientated questionnaire designed to help

you evaluate where improved communications might help.

(Even if you decide not to return this, you'll benefit from what you'll learn about yourself as you respond to its questions.)

If you do return a completed questionnaire, we'll use your answers and a bank of computers to analyse your particular business needs.

Then we'll make up and send off your personally compiled Workplan handbook.

This is a ring-binder containing information and advice on the communications options we believe would be most likely to save you time.

If at that moment, or indeed anytime in the future, you'd like to discuss specific items with one of our people, you only have to call and say so.

'Ah,' we hear, 'but I'm too busy to get into all this.'

All we can do by way of persuasion is reiterate the words in the introduction to Workplan:

'If you haven't got time to fill this in, you need to fill this in.'

In business, time is money. In your personal life, it can be priceless.

Call us free on 0800 800 842 and ask for your copy of Workplan. Our

lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **CALL US FREE ON 0800 800 842.**

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## Boesak launches Thatcher attack

Gaborone (Reuter) — The Rev Allan Boesak, the South African anti-apartheid leader, yesterday accused Mrs Thatcher of showing less concern for imprisoned black children than for the future of the controversial athlete, Zola Budd. Dr Boesak said at a news conference in the Botswana capital that Western nations, particularly Britain and West Germany, held the key to the South African problem. But instead, he said that "Mrs Thatcher has more concern for Zola Budd not participating in the Olympics than for black children languishing in prisons in South Africa."

● **JOHANNESBURG:** Britain is committed to fight apartheid but will increase its aid for black education and welfare in South Africa rather than walk away from the country's problems, Mr Robin Renwick, the British Ambassador to South Africa, said yesterday.

## Court rules for PLO

The Hague — The International Court of Justice unanimously ruled yesterday that the United States should submit to arbitration in its dispute with the United Nations over the threatened closure of the Palestine Liberation Organization's mission in New York (Mark Fuller writes). The UN had appealed for an advisory opinion.

## Inquiry clears Bofors

Delhi (Reuter) — An Indian parliamentary inquiry yesterday brushed aside charges that bribes or commissions were paid to help Bofors, the Swedish weapons firm, clinch an artillery sale. The report said there was "no evidence to substantiate the allegations of commissions or bribes having been paid to anyone". Opposition members jeered as the report was presented to the Upper House. The report said the government would not cancel the contract or demand reimbursement from Bofors for payments to three non-Indian companies for consultancy and marketing services.

## New no-licence radio

Wellington (Reuter) — The New Zealand Government is planning to deregulate broadcasting, opening the industry to new radio and television companies that would not need licences before they go on the airwaves.

It will also open the country to so-called narrowcasting, permitting satellite and cable transmissions to specialized groups such as sports fans, movie buffs and the financial industry. A spokesman said the move was aimed at improving economic efficiency and consumer choice. No timetable for the changes has been made yet.

## Turkey halts talks

Luxembourg — Turkey's relations with Greece and the EEC were severely dented yesterday after its Foreign Minister, Mr Mesut Yilmaz, walked out of a meeting with his Community counterparts because of a row over the wording of an EEC declaration on Cyprus (Richard Owen reports). The planned EEC-Turkey Association Council was abandoned, to the obvious delight of Greece, which had insisted on the controversial reference to the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus in the EEC text.

## North diary demand

Washington — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday voted to subpoena the private diaries of Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, arguing that the 2,848 handwritten pages of notes by the former National Security Council aide might be essential to Senate investigations of international drug smuggling (Michael Binyon writes). During the Iran-Contra hearings last summer Colonel North provided 1,269 pages of notes to the congressional investigators, but the entries were heavily edited or censored. The diaries must now be submitted uncensored.

### Missile modernization

## Nato delays move on deployment

From Michael Evans, London and Frederick Bonnant, Brussels

Nato defence ministers are expected this week to approve a "step-by-step" programme to modernize the remaining nuclear weapons in Europe, although a political decision on deployment of the new arms will be put off for up to two years, sources said.

The ministers, meeting tomorrow and Thursday for a Nuclear Planning Group session switched from Kolding in Denmark to Brussels, will agree to the principle of finding alternative systems for the existing 70-mile-range land-based Lance missile and the air-launched nuclear free-fall bomb. But the sources said that no package of measures would be announced.

The West Germans have made it clear that they will not be pushed into approving a deployment decision until it is absolutely necessary. They want to hold off an announcement for between 18 months and two years. Although Mrs Thatcher fought hard at the March summit for a nuclear modernization programme, the step-by-step approach towards that goal has been accepted both by Britain and the US.

The defence ministers will adopt as low a profile as possible at the Brussels meeting, because of the wish to keep the West German Government happy. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats are facing state elections in Schleswig-Holstein on May 8, and if Nato were to take a decision this week on modernizing and "adjusting" the short-range nuclear weapon systems it would damage the election chances of the Christian Democrat candidates.

Herr Manfred Wörner, the West German Defence Minister who will be attending his last Nuclear Planning Group meeting before succeeding Lord Carrington as Nato Secretary General, is expected to follow Bonn's policy to the letter, underlining the view that now is not the time to announce a deployment decision on modernizing nuclear weapon systems. Nato's High-Level Group will produce a report that outlines the favoured systems for the future. The group has been examining the decision in 1983 to reduce the number of nuclear weapons



Professor Rupert Scholz Bonn — The announcement yesterday by Chancellor Kohl of West Germany that his new Defence Minister is to be Professor Rupert Scholz, a man with no military background, has surprised the armed forces (Our Correspondent writes). Professor Scholz, aged 50, a West Berlin senator with no seat in the Bundestag, will take over on May 18 from Herr Manfred Wörner, who in July succeeds Lord Carrington as Nato's Secretary General. He will inherit many problems in one of Bonn's most difficult jobs.

Lance 2. The most likely weapon is a nuclear version of a newly developed conventional US Army tactical missile, the ATACMS, which would be launched by existing US technology, the multiple launcher rocket system. At present a restriction by the US Congress precludes a nuclear warhead for the system. Mr Frank Carlucci, the US Defence Secretary, in his request to Congress to lift the restriction, would be considerably helped if the Nato allies backed the development. The High-Level Group report will also deal with the search for an air-launched stand-off cruise missile. The options are the American SRAM2 and a longer-range version of the French ASMP missile.

# Bush abandons blacks to woo other minorities

From Christopher Thomas Philadelphia

Vice-President George Bush had no chance of capturing black votes in the Pennsylvania primary yesterday. He made sure of that when he stood on stage at a south Philadelphia union hall with former mayor, Mr Frank Rizzo, and accepted his endorsement.

The gesture demonstrated his virtual abandonment of the black vote in favour of seeking out other ethnic groups and disgruntled white conservative Democrats. Mr Rizzo, regarded by most blacks as an out-and-out racist, is both ethnic and a former Democrat. And he is Mr Bush's campaign chairman in Philadelphia.

The Vice-President, who upset black leaders recently by appearing on a Chicago stage with Mr Edward Vrdolyak, a Democrat turned Republican who has often clashed with black political figures in Illinois. "I suppose there is some potential problem," Mr Peter Teeley, Mr



Bush's chief spokesman, conceded. Mr Rizzo was narrowly beaten in a bitter, racially divided election last year by Mr Wilson Goode, Philadelphia's first black mayor.

Mr Bush, clearly aware that he was sacrificing any chance of black support, publicly denounced racist accusations against Mr Rizzo, saying they were unfair, outrageous, and reverse discrimination.

"People who raise the question are suggesting that 49 per cent of the people of Philadelphia are racists because they voted for a man who has been mayor of the city and who

was campaigning on things that appealed to them," he added.

Mr Bush's strategists believe that support from people like Mr Rizzo and Mr Vrdolyak will boost his support from conservative southern Democrats and northern ethnic groups. Mr Teeley described them as "stand-up, wave-the-flag Americans. We have to take a percentage of that vote."

Mr Michael Dukakis, the son of Greek immigrants and the probable Democratic presidential nominee, is likely to capture most ethnic votes, however. Mr Bush's calculated neglect of black political sensitivities is clearly aimed principally at attracting Democrats who may find the Massachusetts governor far too liberal for their taste.

Black leaders say they have seen nothing so far that would justify Mr Bush's assertion that as President he would give minority groups a more sympathetic ear. "George Bush, like the Republican Party, has not made up his mind about the role of minorities in the party," Mr Vernon

Jordan, a prominent black leader and former head of the National Urban League, said.

Mr Bush hopes to duplicate President Reagan's success in 1980 and 1984 in capturing ethnic support. "I've sent a signal that I want a vote from people in these ethnic com-

Washington (Reuter) — The US Supreme Court has caused uproar among civil rights groups by deciding to reconsider one of its most important civil rights rulings, which gave blacks equality with whites in jobs and other private activities. In a 5-4 vote it said it would consider overturning its 1976 decision prohibiting racial discrimination in all private contracts.

munities who believe in the same things I do in terms of the importance of neighbourhood, family, face and these things," he declared.

The Vice-President concentrated his Pennsylvania campaign in economically depressed areas to the west of the state, telling somewhat

phlegmatic crowds of unemployed people that "we cannot simply discard good hard-working men and women." He told the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce at a packed luncheon: "They need us. We need them." As voting booths opened across Pennsylvania yesterday, Mr Dukakis and the Reverend Jesse Jackson sparred gently over how each would handle a terrorism crisis as President. Monday was a day of total muddle in the Jackson camp as he summoned a string of press conferences, issued several press releases as "clarification", and yet continually contradicted himself on the question of negotiations and concessions. Mr Dukakis, in the new kid gloves spirit between the Democratic rivals, would not be drawn into saying anything critical about Mr Jackson's position, whatever that was.

● **WASHINGTON:** The Rev Jackson told State Department officials yesterday that South Africa should be treated as a terrorist nation for backing Mozambique rebels.

## Mitterrand moves battleground to conservative centre

From Philip Jacobson, Paris



The push for victory in the second round of the French presidential election began in earnest yesterday with both contenders staking out the ground on which they will seek crucial new support.

In a speech to a rally in Guadeloupe in the French Antilles, President Mitterrand set his cap at the moderate conservative centre, expressing the hope that "no responsible candidate" would consider an alliance with the National Front party of M Jean-Marie Le Pen.

The agenda for his rival, M Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, began with a strategy session in Paris and was followed by an address to the combined parliamentary forces of the mainstream conservative factions.

After the unpleasant surprise he received from first-round voters on Sunday, the watchword in the Chirac camp is said to be "act fast and involve everybody".

The thrust of M Mitterrand's message from the Caribbean yesterday was aimed at supporters of M Raymond Barre, the defeated centre candidate. Although M Barre has asked his supporters to back the Prime Minister on May 8, a significant proportion are thought to find the idea of M Chirac wooing M Le Pen's jubilant followers hard to stomach.

M Chirac's observation on television on Monday that he "understood" why almost 15 per cent of the French electorate had been won over by the National Front's campaign will certainly have strengthened that concern. M Mitterrand, in expressing the hope that no presidential candidate would enlist support from the extreme right, was

sending M Barre's supporters a personal invitation to switch to him. Could that mean that, despite the apparently favourable voting arithmetic for the run-off — first polls suggest he will romp home with 53 to 55 per cent — Le Pen is becoming rattled?

On the long flight yesterday to the Antilles, the President made it clear to journalists that he was worried about complacency setting in among supporters. "It's going to be closer than the polls are saying," he insisted. "I certainly won't complain about getting 51 per cent."

While M Chirac is itching for their television confrontation tomorrow night, the President appears to have reservations. "I've got more to lose than Chirac, because he likes this sort of thing and I don't," he observed.

On the other hand, M Mitterrand claims to doubt the significance of the event he describes as a "circus game". His immediate predecessor, M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, may talk about picking up an extra half-million votes after a strong performance during the 1974 campaign, but the incumbent President begged to differ, shaping the figure nought with his fingers.

Elsewhere on the political front, the Le Pen factor

continued to make most of the headlines. With the detailed breakdown of Sunday's voting now available, it is clear that the grand perturbateur made important advances outside the National Front's traditional strongholds in the racially troubled big cities of the south.

Though M Le Pen did well in Marseille, Nice, Cannes and Toulon, he can draw even greater satisfaction from unexpected successes in such traditionally centre-right regions as Alsace, where he outscored both M Chirac and M Barre.

Paris was another happy hunting ground for M Le Pen, with his share of the vote running between 15 and 20 per cent. Confirmation of his appeal to angry, fearful and dispossessed protest voters came with the figure from former Communist fiefdoms north of Paris.

Oddly enough for the son of a Breton fisherman, M Le Pen did not prosper in that economically hard-pressed region. In Rennes, he was pushed into fourth place, though still more than doubling the combined score of the hard left.

M Barre, whose public and pointed close-of-poll criticism of the National Front's "racism and xenophobia" did not endear him to the Chirac camp, may be out of the race, but his 16.5 per cent of the votes keeps him very much in the spotlight. A cartoon in yesterday's *Libération* showed his rounded figure, striding alongside a rather worried looking M Chirac. Close behind them came a ghostly pair of jackboots. "Don't turn round," warns the Prime Minister, "YOU are being followed."

## Kanaks clash with loyalists

From Christopher Morris, Sydney

Violence in the troubled Pacific territory of New Caledonia took an ominous turn yesterday with direct clashes between Kanak rebels and French loyalists. At the same time, fighting came within six miles of the capital, Noumea, arousing fears for the safety of the many foreign tourists still on the islands.

So far, 8,000 French soldiers and gendarmes have failed to restore order since last weekend's local elections, or to find the 16 gendarmes still being held hostage on the coral atoll of Ouvéa. They were captured four days ago after Kanaks overran the police barracks, hacking three gendarmes to death. A fourth gendarme died in hospital after being flown to Sydney.

Throughout the day, there was fighting between heavily-armed and hooded Kanak separatists and loyalists who have formed vigilante groups. These are the clashes the French Government fears the most, since they could lead to

prolonged civil strife in New Caledonia.

M Bernard Pons, the French Minister for Overseas Territories, who has been sent to the islands to direct operations to free the hostages, has ordered security forces to take a tough line with the Kanaks. "I have given instructions that all those who attack the armed forces or commit acts of violence are to be neutralized," he said.

The leader of the pro-independence Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) has called M Pons's statement "a declaration of colonial war" and has warned that the separatists will continue what he called their "mobilization".

The FLNKS, which has claimed responsibility for the recent murders and hostage taking, is divided into several factions, including the hard-line United Kanak Liberation Front, led by Mr Yann-Celene Uregei.

Mr Uregei is the chief pro-Libyan activist in the South Pacific, and many of the Front's militant groups have received training in Libya in recent years.

The whereabouts of the 16 hostages remains a mystery, but they are reported to have been split into small groups to avoid detection by the French forces. They are said to be safe and unharmed.

Military reinforcements have been flown to Ouvéa and they are being led by a 20-man elite anti-terrorist squad sent from Paris on the instructions of the French Government.

● **NOUMEA:** About 30 civilians were airlifted from the embattled eastern town of Canala yesterday. Another 100 civilians have taken refuge in the police station (AFP reports).

Melanesian snipers were reported to be firing randomly in the town, where telephone links and the electricity supply have been cut.

## Retrieving bricks in the Wall



East Germans, working in West Berlin territory under the scrutiny of a border guard, remove stones of the old Berlin Wall, which broke down on Monday. Their watchful guard keeps his vigil from the new concrete wall. Meanwhile, early yesterday, two East Germans used a ladder to get over the Wall to the West, and border guards only noticed their escape an hour after they had gone (Reuter reports). A spokesman said the two 21-year-olds, a bricklayer and a tiler from Jena in the south of East Germany, told officials they fled to the West because their applications to leave legally had been rejected.

West, and border guards only noticed their escape an hour after they had gone (Reuter reports). A spokesman said the two 21-year-olds, a bricklayer and a tiler from Jena in the south of East Germany, told officials they fled to the West because their applications to leave legally had been rejected.

## US remains 'nation at risk' from poor school results

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Nation at Risk. That report led to many education reforms, including a stiffening of school-leaving requirements, changes in the curriculum and the introduction of legislation to improve teaching standards and school leadership. Many states are now setting competence tests for teachers and are rewarding good teaching with extra pay.

America has been shaken by studies that show the huge gap between achievement in Japanese schools and the abysmal record of ignorance, violence and vandalism in many American inner-city schools.

Education has become a big election issue, with Vice-President George Bush making improvements a priority for a future Republican administration.

Mr Bennett is an outspoken conservative who campaigned strongly for reforms similar to

those favoured by the Thatcher Government: a core curriculum, school vouchers and parental choice.

In his report he said: "The absolute level at which our improvements are taking place is unacceptably low. Too many students do not graduate from our high schools, and too many of those who do graduate have been poorly educated. Our students know too little, and their command of essential skills is too slight."

The report, however, has found that blacks and Hispanics perform better in college-entrance examinations. Standards in English, mathematics and science have risen slightly. The high rate of functional illiteracy is coming down, and "magnet schools" have shown great success in attracting and keeping inner-city pupils. The report denounced "cafeteria" high school curricula.

## Following the road to a yellow-brick Babylon

From Paul Valley Baghdad

"I am Nebuchadnezzar," ran the inscription on the stele. "I am he who built the Street of the Great Procession, who built the Street of the Forgotten Son, who built the street of Nebu and paved it with shimmering stones..."

Ramadan, the guide — appropriately named for the season — broke off from his translation of the Arabic version of the ancient Babylonian script. His features, dark and wrinkled as a pickled walnut, creased themselves still further into what passed for a smile. "Now they are repeating it." Repeating was Ramadan's word for restoring, though after I toured the site of this ancient civilization I came to regard the old Iraqi's choice of word as gruesomely

appropriate. They are rebuilding Babylon. They are not making good the extant walls or lines of buildings or making the best of what remains. They are building Nebuchadnezzar's fabled city again in bright yellow brick. And in places which they consider particularly dramatic, they are painting it deep blue.

An hour's drive south-west of Baghdad lies the huge area of mounds which mark out where this legendary city stood from the rule of Sargon, founder of the Akkad dynasty in 2334 BC, to its destruction at the end of the Chaldean dynasty several centuries before the birth of Christ.

"Come," said Ramadan. "let us see the Repeating."

We entered the city through a tall blue-brick gate, with horses and tigers raised in

white and yellow from the brickwork. The first courtyard had large panels set in the walls on which had been painted highly romantic accounts, in an unmistakably modern Arab hand, of scenes from old Mesopotamian life.

But inside the museum were fragments of stelae from the time of Hammurabi, one of the most ancient kings, recording, in tiny, delicately chiselled script, a comprehensive code of law to establish justice throughout the four quarters of the world and protect the weak from the strong.

Outside, the Street of the Great Procession stretched before us, a long surface paved with ancient flags of baked mud. It had been fenced off. "No, no, that is old," said Ramadan dragging me away

to the Repeating.

The building work was extensive. It had cost many millions, Ramadan said proudly. President Saddam Hussein of Iraq had paid for it so Babylon could be the site for a festival of music and dance last September. There was to be another this year and work was proceeding apace to match last year's achievement.

The industry was everywhere. In the distance a dozen huge road-grading machines were flattening the antique landscape to make way for the grand new work. Bright new city walls, 20 ft high, were being erected on top of the old mud bricks which protruded only three or four feet above the ground. Huge, 40 ft high arches, were being constructed by hundreds of black work-

men. "They are Sudanese," Ramadan explained with a toothy grin. "All young Iraqi men are at the war."

The Sudanese worked steadily, piling bags of cement and stacks of bricks from dumper trucks. Bulldozers shovelled earth, which a conveyor belt carried away across a labyrinth of small new walls which looked like the foundations for an estate of maisonettes for first-time buyers.

Next, said Ramadan, they would repeat the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. I asked about rebuilding that greatest *folie de grandeur*, the Tower of Babel, which legend has it also stood here. Ramadan was not sure about that.

In the distance, in the shelter of a row of stout palm trees, were the old earthworks. The shapes of creatures of

fable were still discernible, raised from a pattern of bricks.

Elsewhere walls had cracked, sagged or toppled. In places the bricks had compacted back into solid banks of mud, like the ones from which they must once have been dug.

"This is old," said Ramadan, with an increasingly impatient finality. "Come and see the new temple." He hurried me from the crumbling half-shapes which soon will disappear forever beneath the sands or the bulldozer, and moved towards the Walk Disney splendour of the Repeating.

We crossed a spoil heap of unwanted earth, shovelled on one side by the workmen. It was studded with shards of Babylonian pottery. I pulled one from the soil.



## Tension builds up as troop withdrawal approaches

## Russians moving to block Mujahidin pressure on Kabul

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Heavy fighting is again reported around the border town of Khost. The Russians are reported to be pulling out of Zabol province, which lies astride the continuation of the Kabul-Ghazni road to Kandahar. In Kandahar, there will clearly be acute problems for the Government after a withdrawal. The Mujahidin are already reported to be fighting within the city and Pakistan's consulate was badly damaged in a rocket attack aimed at the TV and radio station. Diplomats say that the

ammunition, damaged vehicles, fuel drums, and pieces of prefabricated buildings, the material consistent with dismantling a security post.

On the political front, President Najibullah has been giving figures for the composition of the new Parliament after the recent, highly suspect elections.

According to the President, 48 per cent of the seats were taken by a combination of communist front organizations, including the Workers' Revolutionary Organization, the Peasants' Justice Party, and the Islamic Party. Another 38 per cent were taken by the umbrella organization, the National Front, and only 27 per cent by the ruling communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Another 7 per cent were held by trade unions, the youth organization and women's groups.

Neither the President nor official newspapers explained how this allocation came to total more than 100 per cent.

The President indicated that the first session of Parliament would take place after Ramadan ends on May 17, which would also be after the Russian withdrawal begins. At that time there would be elections for a new Prime Minister, and diplomats suggest that this would be the opportunity to remove Mr Sultan Ali Keshmmand.

Kabul (Reuters) — President Najibullah staged a show of strength here yesterday, displaying the latest Soviet tanks and weaponry in a huge parade which marked the 19th anniversary of the Communist takeover in Afghanistan.

tempo of the resupply of the Afghans by the Russians continues to increase, with 12 flights into Kabul airport last Tuesday. Six of the heavy transport planes were carrying military supplies. The cargoes were immediately reloaded into Afghan Air Force planes which left the same day. Convoys of trucks have also been observed taking supplies back north. One convoy was seen by diplomats last Friday entering the large Soviet base north of the Kabul airport. The 60 lorries were carrying



An Afghan woman closing her eyes in contempt as she passes a Soviet checkpoint in Kabul.

## Mulroney poll hopes hinge on visit to US

From John Best, Ottawa

Mr Brian Mulroney, the Prime Minister of Canada, goes to Washington today for a two-day visit that could affect the outcome of the Canadian general election, widely expected later this year.

Two key issues will dominate Mr Mulroney's talks with President Reagan and US congressional leaders: acid rain and free trade between Canada and the United States.

Both are controversial issues in Canada, though not in the US, and unless handled deftly, could turn into political minefields for the Conservative Prime Minister.

Mr Mulroney has been criticized and ridiculed for his Government's failure to persuade America to act decisively to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions from US industry that fall on Canada as acid rain. Thousands of Canadian rivers and forests have been contaminated.

Mr Mulroney is particularly vulnerable to criticism because of the vast amount of political capital that he has invested in his personal relationship with President Reagan.

His aides often speak — perhaps unaware of the unfortunate pun in the context of environmental issues — about the special "chemistry" between the two leaders. If it is so special, say the Prime Minister's opponents, why has it not produced more than a limited US commitment to experiments in pollution-control technology?

At a press briefing here, aides to Mr Mulroney emphasized that the absolute mini-

mum Canada wants from the Reagan Administration is a commitment to "targeted, scheduled reductions" in airborne pollution. But they conceded that they did not anticipate any breakthrough in the Washington talks.

Mr Mulroney is on firmer ground with the free-trade agreement, scheduled to take effect on January 1, 1989.

Although the deal, said to be the most extensive trade accord ever, enjoys fairly wide popular support in Canada, both opposition parties — the Liberals and the New Democrats — have vowed to fight it in the House of Commons. The required legislation is now being prepared in both countries.

Mr Mulroney and his officials will be seeking assurances that the Trade Bill now on its way through the US Congress — it was passed by the House of Representatives last week — does no harm to the Canada-US accord.

Unless the assurances are received, the free-trade issue could start to turn against Mr Mulroney's party if President Reagan does not carry out his threat to veto the protectionist legislation.

Another potentially troublesome issue which could find its way on to the Reagan-Mulroney agenda is Canada's proposed multi-billion-dollar purchase of a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines.

One of the two contenders for the contract was rumored to be the favourite, the British-designed Trafalgar submarine.

## Hong Kong critics fear 'muddle' of Chinese blueprint

From Stephen Leather and Chris Pomeroy, Hong Kong

The six million inhabitants of Hong Kong will be told tomorrow what life under Communist rule has in store for them.

Chinese leaders are to publish the first draft of the Basic Law, the rules and regulations which will apply to the Crown Colony when it is handed back to Peking in 1997. The weighty documents have taken three years to compile and represent the deliberation of 23 Hong Kong and 35 mainland drafting committee members.

But critics of the Basic Law say it is muddled and unworkable. And they are unhappy at a Chinese proposal that Peking can appoint a nomination committee of 600 Hong Kong residents who will then choose the post-1997 legis-

lature. The 10-chapter document reflects the work of each of five working sub-groups of the drafting committee. They are:

- The relationship between the Peking Government and the Special Administrative Region, as Hong Kong will be known after 1997;
- Basic rights and obligations of Hong Kong residents;
- The political system;
- The economic system;
- Education, science, technology, culture, sports and religion.

Much of what will be in the Basic Law has already been leaked, so that it will not come as a shock to the Hong Kong Chinese. The colony's Government has already ruled that there will be no direct polls until 1991 at the earliest. It has already been decided that the 9,000-strong British Army

garrison will have pulled out of Hong Kong by 1997 and defence will be in the hands of the People's Liberation Army.

The Governor will be replaced by a Chinese chief executive, initially for five years. But there are still a lot of worrying gaps in the Basic Law.

English and Chinese will remain as the official languages, but there are no provisions yet on which will be the main tongue to be used in schools.

There is no provision in the Basic Law for the executive to be accountable to the legislature, which is causing some concern. And there is no provision for the legislature to veto or change budgets proposed by the executive.

There is already a flood of Hong Kong Chinese queuing up to emigrate to countries

such as Australia, Canada and the United States. Last year those three countries issued 36,000 resettlement visas and, according to the US Consulate, almost 100,000 are awaiting their turn to leave.

Most of those wanting to go are the colony's affluent middle class, taking with them much needed management and technical skills, and billions of dollars.

The deputy secretary general of the Basic Law drafting committee, Mr Lu Ping, has predicted that those who have already emigrated will want to return to Hong Kong after they have read it.

In an attempt to win their trust, the Chinese and Hong Kong authorities have promised a five-month consultation period, backed by a HK\$3 million (£204,500) advertising campaign, during which the

public will be asked to give their views on the draft of the Basic Law. It will then be modified before being submitted to the National People's Congress for approval in 1990.

But informed lawyers, legislators and academics in the colony say that China is cutting back the degree of independence it will allow Hong Kong after the British withdrawal.

Local observers say that Peking officials have used the constitutional exercise to fudge some of the key promises outlined in the 1984 Sino-British agreement.

Many academics highlight the difficulties of meshing capitalist Hong Kong with communist China, while others indicate Peking's reluctance to allow the territory the "high degree of autonomy" it promised back in 1984. "The

Basic Law has been very carefully designed," a prominent Hong Kong barrister claims. "It's been put together with a particular objective in mind, that ultimately the will of China will permeate throughout all aspects, if not carry the day."

Observers note that Chinese officials form a majority on the drafting committee. Proponents of democracy in Hong Kong say mainland officials have worked closely with senior Hong Kong businessmen to produce a political structure favourable to Peking.

In its agreement with Britain in 1984, China promised Hong Kong a "legislature constituted by elections".

Local sources also claim that the Hong Kong Government has acceded to Peking's desire to "converge" local political reform with the still

incomplete Basic Law.

Linking Hong Kong's common-law legal system and China's less-than-independent legal structure has caused further problems. China's legislature is required to interpret the laws that it enacts. Under Hong Kong's common-law system, only the courts can interpret the legislation.

The current draft does not list which of China's laws will apply to Hong Kong after 1997. Furthermore, Hong Kong's freedom to maintain its capitalist lifestyle is not written down anywhere in Chinese law.

Local commentators say that the slogan — "one country, two systems" — coined by Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, can now be seen as a demand for loyalty, as well as a formula for reunification.

## Bishop attacks 'anti-Catholic' Spain

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Practising Roman Catholics are discriminated against in today's Socialist Spain, says the newly elected secretary of the Spanish Episcopal Council, who took over the influential church post last Thursday.

In an interview broadcast last Sunday on the government-run Radio Nacional, Mgr Augustin Garcia Gasco, aged 57, who is also the auxiliary bishop of Madrid, said: "This reminds me of what I saw in Cuba some years ago. Anyone who identifies himself as a Catholic is a second- or third-class citizen."

"I think this is what is happening in Spain," he said. "We see it all the time, and it is the case of many people in our country. For instance, in public (state-run) communications media, certain persons have found themselves on the outside because they are members of the faithful."

The bishop said he knew of "specific cases in which per-

sons are unable to occupy politically or socially important posts without declaring themselves to be non-believers or non-practising Catholics."

"This is a throwback to the past. Before, in Spain, anyone who wasn't a member of the 'old shirts' or 'blue shirts' (the fascist-rooted Falange, the only political party tolerated by the Franco regime), could not rise to any relevant position. Today, anyone who does not accept a certain ideology has a hard time," he said.

"The student who declares himself to be a Catholic before entering the university has the opportunity to study only sciences, but not liberal arts."

The bishop's broadside came at a time when the Socialist Government and the church are at odds about legislation and subsidies affecting church-run schools. It also coincides with the beginning of a "church tax"

scheme by which the church will have to finance itself with money generated by taxpayers who voluntarily indicate on their tax returns that they wish one half of 1 per cent of their income tax to be paid to the church. This will replace funds which were formerly budgeted by the Government.

The bishop was defined by Spanish editorial writers as a political moderate when he replaced the more progressive bishop, Mgr Fernando Sebastian, who was transferred by the Vatican to the post of Archbishop Coadjutor of Granada. Bishop Garcia Gasco claimed: "These are defects in a (democratic) process which we have initiated, and it is normal that there should be defects. When one is learning one always makes mistakes."

The bishop's attack drew surprisingly little reaction. No government spokesman replied, nor did the church hierarchy add one word.

Even the Roman Catholic daily, *Ya*, of Madrid refrained from commenting on Bishop Garcia Gasco's opinions. Spain's most widely read newspaper, the independent left-wing *El Pais*, of Madrid, however, dedicated a leading article to the outspoken clergyman, calling his comments "outlandish" and "absurd".

"This man's aberrational remarks can only be the product of his own dim-wittedness, but there is a danger that they might be interpreted as symptoms of a new policy," it said.

Recalling that the church benefits from certain tax exemptions and that the state collects and distributes the funds which maintain the church and its ministers, *El Pais* remarked: "It looks like citizen Garcia Gasco needs a course in Vatican diplomacy."

Separatists' border setback  
Eta loses £3.5 million cash

Bayonne (AP-Reuters) — A suspected member of the Basque separatist group, Eta, was arrested yesterday carrying £3.5 million worth of Spanish currency after a gun battle in which he and a French border policeman were wounded.

Police sources said that José-Felix Perez Alonso, apparently noticed that he and a friend were being followed and opened fire.

In the exchange Señor Perez Alonso, aged 30, and a policeman were both shot in the leg. The account was sketchy, but it appeared that Señor Perez Alonso's comrade, named as Ignacio Aguirre, somehow escaped.

The sources said that 725 million pesetas discovered in Señor Perez Alonso's possession was at first thought to have come from a ransom delivered in the Eta kidnapping of a Madrid businessman, Señor Emiliano Revilla.

Eta is still holding him. But police later discovered that the sum was far too large to be the ransom money and believe it had to be part of the guerrilla organization's secret funds, which Señor Perez Alonso was moving to a new hiding place.

Spanish Interior Ministry sources in Madrid said they could not rule out that the money seized in Bayonne was the ransom money.

The Spanish press reports said Eta asked for £3.75 million ransom for Señor Revilla's release. His relatives have consistently denied paying any money.

The sources in Bayonne said Señor Perez-Alonso was suspected of being the right-hand man of "Artapalo" Magica-Garmendia, the leader of Eta's militant wing.

But in Madrid, the Interior Ministry sources said neither Señor Perez-Alonso nor a suspected guerrilla who es-

caped in yesterday's shoot-out were Eta leaders.

French police sources said Señor Perez-Alonso opened fire when border police in Bayonne tried to take him in for questioning after monitoring his movements for several days.

He shot the policeman in the leg and wounded himself in the foot.

The sources in Madrid said Señor Perez-Alonso was wanted in Spain in connection with a sub-machine-gun attack on a bar, in which one person was wounded, and the bombing of several French car showrooms in the Spanish Basque country.

Spanish police had lost track of Señor Perez-Alonso after he escaped to France five years ago.

Eta (Homeland and Liberty) has been fighting for independence for the Basque region, made up of three provinces in north-western Spain.

## Italy fears poisoned grapefruit

Rome (Reuters) — Italy banned sales of grapefruit and ordered the seizure of all supplies yesterday after some fruit were found to have been poisoned in a campaign apparently aimed at Israeli exports.

Tests on grapefruit from a Rome supermarket showed that some had been injected with a powerful poison. A previously unknown group claimed responsibility.

Growing pains  
Jakarta (Reuters) — A 7 ft 7 in Indonesian, thought to be the world's tallest woman, will be operated on in an attempt to prevent her growing further. She has been unable to stand since 1977.

## Envoy held

Sydney (AFP) — A Guatemalan diplomat who was charged with four other people over a conspiracy to import heroin worth more than £32 million was refused bail.

## Oilfield blaze

Sao Paulo (Reuters) — A fire in Brazil's biggest oilfield, the Campos basin, has cut oil production by 10 per cent and could burn for weeks.

Frontier fence  
Delhi (Reuters) — India is putting a fence along the border between Punjab and Pakistan to reduce infiltration by Sikh separatists.

## School strike

Madrid (AP) — A teachers' pay strike shut Spanish schools. University teachers join the stoppage today.

## Riot payment

Tegucigalpa (Reuters) — Honduras will pay for damage done to the US consulate during anti-American riots.

## Correction

Mr Ryohji Murata is Japan's Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, not Deputy Foreign Minister as stated yesterday.

## Optimistic opposition unites to fight Pinochet in plebiscite

From Lake Segar, Santiago

President Pinochet of Chile has said he will be the ruling junta's sole candidate in a plebiscite to confirm his position, expected later this year.

General Pinochet, who has ruled Chile for 15 years, announced his candidacy in an improvised speech in the coastal city of Vina del Mar last Friday. But, in coverage of the speech by the Government-controlled national television channel and the Government newspaper *La Nación*, his comments were censored.

General Pinochet told 4,000 women volunteers that the military's Constitution provided for a plebiscite to see whether Chileans want the current military government to continue.

"That and nothing else is the question: if you want President Pinochet to carry on or not?" Technically, the Constitution calls for the four-man military junta to nominate a candidate for President of Chile, who will then be accepted or rejected in a plebiscite expected toward the end of this year.

Chile's opposition leaders are bursting with public optimism. Fourteen normally fractious parties have united behind the strategy of voting "no": the only party likely to support General Pinochet has just split; and even the junta has seemed divided over who to nominate as the sole candidate.

But, privately, some opposition leaders are concerned that Chile

6 Right now, the general is defeated and can't win. He's doing badly

may be headed for a bloody "self-coup", in which General Pinochet could decide to suspend the plebiscite or continue as president regardless of the results. The entire opposition, except Chile's influential Communist Party, has united behind the "Command for the No Vote" and the "Party for Democracy" to organize door-to-door campaigns to convince people to register now and vote no when the plebiscite is called. They are also struggling to recruit and train the 200,000 volunteers

they need to scrutinize during the vote. And four different groups of computer experts are developing a system for publishing the final count before official figures are available, to prevent meddling.

Morale among campaign organizers is as high now as it was low six months ago when they started. "The Government is spending \$45 (£24) for every dollar we spend on our campaign," said Señor General Arriagada, the political scientist who heads the Command for the No Vote.

"Nevertheless, our campaign is on the rise and the Government's is doing very badly. Right now, Pinochet can't win the plebiscite. He's defeated today, which doesn't mean he doesn't have resources, but does mean he's doing badly. There are three kinds of fraud which could win the plebiscite for General Pinochet," said Señor Arriagada. "The first is to have few people registered to vote, with the majority of those registered being his supporters. That's failed. The second is environmental, especially control of information available to the public. That's our main battle now. The third could take place on the day itself."

An unexpected increase in registration has fed opposition optimism. It topped five million in March and many now believe a record number of Chile's potential eight million voters will be registered before the plebiscite is called.

Polling results by the pollsters Diagonos, among others, indicate that around 18 per cent would vote "yes" to General Pinochet and 45 per cent "no", directly contradicting those of Gallup Chile, which reports that 39 per cent would favour the general and only 26 per cent oppose him.

"The problem is that when you have an electoral event, you usually know when the election will be, who the candidate will be and who the candidate's opponent(s) will be," Señor Hugo Rivas of Diagonos explained, diplomatically. "But right now in Chile we don't know any of these things."

Señor Augusto Nosedá, a former Gallup director, told a marketing magazine that he and two others quit Gallup because of its "lack of professionalism".

Comments by two junta members, Air Force General Fernando Matthei and Admiral José Merino, have convinced many opposition strategists that the junta is not united behind General Pinochet. But both have publicly differed with General Pinochet in the past, only to swallow their comments after a particularly aggressive rally by the general, their commander-in-chief.

The opposition is also delighted by a serious split within the newly formed National Renovation (RN) Party, which was to have been General Pinochet's main civilian support. An uneasy alliance between its two main factions, the National Work Front (FNT) and the Independent Union of Democrats (UDI) erupted when they held their first internal elections this month.

The key issue in the split seems to have been the UDI's insistence that National Renovation immediately endorse and campaign for General Pinochet, rather than a civilian candidate.

During the no-holds-barred inter-faction battle, Chileans were treated to the sight of supporters of the military regime accusing each other of kidnappings, beatings,

lying, bribery, influence-peddling and improper use of state resources, particularly those belonging to municipalities.

UDI supporters picketed party polling stations with signs proclaiming fraud and demanding democratic elections, often using slogans borrowed from the military regime's democratic opposition. They are now predicting that

6 They're already giving away houses so people will vote for him

30,000 of their number will leave National Renovation.

There seems little doubt that if Chile were facing a democratically run plebiscite the opposition would have a winning edge. But while several new television programmes have interviewed two or three opposition leaders, access to television, which is where 80 per cent of Chileans get their information, is still severely limited.

And fear of reprisals is still an active component of most Chileans' thinking when they consider the plebiscite. Just an hour from

Santiago, people in Putaendo village have registered to vote for fear of losing important social service benefits.

"They're already giving away houses and other gifts," so people will vote for Pinochet," one housewife told me. "And they say there are going to be secret cameras in polling booths, to make sure people vote the way they've promised."

This month, one region's military governor threatened to shoot "no" vote organizers after the voting.

The Command for the No Vote plan to thwart vote manipulation by announcing their own tally during the official count could easily be stymied by the Government simply assuming control of all radio and television broadcasts, regular occurrence in Chile since the coup.

And General Pinochet May have one other card up his sleeve.

Father Renato Hevia, a Jesuit priest and editor of the Catholic monthly, *Mensaje*, said: "If Pinochet really believes he could lose the plebiscite, there simply won't be one."



April 26 1988

## PARLIAMENT

# Arson not ruled out as cause of Army depot fire

Arson had not been ruled out as the cause of the fire which swept through the Army storage depot at Donnington, Shropshire, yesterday, Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, said in reply to questions in the Commons.

He resisted demands from Labour MPs to hold a public inquiry into the fire, the second at the depot in five years. He said that the normal procedure would be followed and that there would be an Army board of inquiry.

Mr Freeman said that yesterday, at about 11.30 am, a small, smouldering fire was discovered in one of the six larger buildings on the site, one of the Army's two main storage depots.

The building was evacuated and the fire extinguished. The Ministry of Defence police were called to investigate and after a full inspection of the building the workforce was readmitted at 1.30 pm.

At 3.30 pm, while ministry police were still present and taking statements, a second fire started in the upper part of a corner of the building and on the opposite side. It took hold quickly.

"There was some asbestos element in the smoke because of the asbestos content of the roofing material. This was dispersed some five miles to the west of the fire. Wrekin District Council staff are dealing with this and I am advised that the danger to the public is slight."

The West Mercia police, assisted by the Ministry of Defence, were carrying out their normal inquiries into the circumstances of the fire.

The Army authorities would also be convening a board of inquiry to examine the cause and to consider what action was needed. The board would include an outside expert from the fire services inspectorate.

Mr Bruce Grocott (The Wrekin, Lab) said that for a fire of this magnitude to happen once in one's own constituency was disastrous. But for it to happen twice within five years was "quite without precedent and quite unbelievable."

The fire was of great concern to 4,000 of his constituents working in the MoD buildings and for everyone living in the surrounding area.

Could the minister say more about the dangers associated with the dust and debris that had spread over much of the northern part of Telford?

## DEFENCE

Could he confirm that many of the safety recommendations made by the MoD inquiry after the first fire, particularly on the construction of fire barriers in the building, had not been carried out?

Many would find unacceptable the excuse given by one of the minister's officials, that safety measures had not been carried out "because there have been factors against us, such as time and money."

The minister should announce a public inquiry into the fire. "An internal MoD inquiry would be unacceptable to the House and to my constituents."

The public inquiry should address why the remedial work was not carried out after the first fire, the cause of the fire, particularly with the same factors at work as was the case with the first fire, what were the asbestos hazards in the buildings for people working in them, and for people living in the area; what remedial work was necessary, particularly regarding removal of asbestos, to make the depot safe.

The asbestos hazards had been of concern to trade unions at the depot for many years.

Would the minister undertake to implement immediately and fully any safety recommendations made by the inquiry? Would he also ensure that full compensation was paid to anyone suffering direct or indirect consequences from the fire?

Would the local authorities be fully funded for the costs involved?

His constituents were entitled to action - now.

Mr Freeman said safety, and danger to the public, were mainly for Wrekin District Council, but he had been advised that "there was no significant danger to the public."

The 1983 report had made 12 recommendations and all of them were agreed. He would make a summary of those recommendations available to MPs.

A summary had been given to trade unions at the time.

On the call for an independent public inquiry, "we shall follow the procedures followed by all governments in setting up a military inquiry. It will include independent experts."

The conclusions would be communicated promptly, fairly and accurately to the House and to everyone concerned and affected.

Those who had been adversely affected could show that their financial losses were

directly due to the incident, would have their claims considered.

He would draw to the attention of the military inquiry the points that Mr Grocott wanted considered.

Mr John Biffen (North Shropshire, C) asked whether the board of inquiry would be able to consider whether there was any indication that arson might have been the cause.

Mr Freeman said that he could give the assurance sought by Mr Biffen. "We have certainly not ruled out arson as the cause of the latest fire."

There were two separate instances yesterday and the investigations of the West Mercia police as well as the Ministry of Defence police would be concentrating specifically on the point mentioned.

Mr James Wallace, SLD spokesman on defence, wanted to know how many of the recommendations of the report into the first fire had not been implemented and why.

Mr Freeman said all the recommendations of the inquiry had been accepted in full. Certain short-term measures had been implemented immediately.

It was as a result of one of these measures - moving strategic items into two separate locations - that the latest fire had not affected the operational readiness of the Army.

An immediate start had also been made on the longer-term measures.

The building destroyed in 1983 had been replaced by a modern building. The other buildings took time to replace and the building where the latest fire had taken place was the next one due to be cleared of all stock and modernised.

Mr Dennis Davies, chief Opposition spokesman on defence, said that the minister had not been as frank as he should have been. How many of the 1983 recommendations had been carried out and how many had not?

The minister should reconsider having a public inquiry because this involved not only the Ministry of Defence and its employees but also people living in the area.

Mr Freeman said that he had not been frank with the House. The 1983 report had made 12 recommendations and all had been accepted.

Regarding a public inquiry, he found the implications of Mr Davies's comments unacceptable - that the Army somehow had something to hide and did not wish to consult the various bodies which he was sure had much to offer.



Is there still room in the Conservative Party for the nobility, the gentry and the middle classes now that the so-called working class is supporting the party and the Government? The question from Mr John Biffen (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) (above) brought Prime Minister's question time in the Commons to a halt in laughter from all sides. Mr Stokes: Did she happen to read the remarkable speech the other day by Mr Norman Tebbit, in which he praises the party the so-called working class now play in supporting the Government - and we all agree on that. For avoidance of doubt, will she confirm that there is still room in the Government and the Conservative Party for the nobility, the gentry and the middle classes? Mr Thatcher: I think Mr Stokes is just about the only person who could ask that and I wish to goodness we had more like him.

## Thatcher refuses to be drawn on possible benefit changes

## PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister declined to be drawn at question time on whether the Government proposed to make changes in the new social security benefit arrangements.

She was pressed by Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, on behalf of the "whole humane instinct of the people in this country" to amend the social security regulations and restore housing benefit to help with rates.

Mrs Thatcher said that the system had been badly in need of reform and that the substantial structure would, of course, stay.

Mr Kinnock began the exchange by saying the two weeks ago he had asked if she would amend the social security regulations to restore housing benefit to help with rates. She had then replied: "No, sir."

Today, he asked her the same question. Did she give the same answer?

Mrs Thatcher: We are spending far more on housing benefit than ever was the case during the life of the last Labour Government. We have re-

formed the fundamental structure.

Mr Kinnock: Why is the Prime Minister unable to answer the question? She knows she has been wrong. She knows she has done wrong. Why does she stand on her own dignity instead of doing what she can to help others to maintain their dignity?

Mrs Thatcher: We do not stand on dignity. We provide more resources, more cash because the economy run by this Government has enabled us to provide more resources for housing benefit, more for social security reform, more for the health service.

Mr Kinnock: Can I ask the Prime Minister for a considered answer? Will she now amend the housing benefit and social security regulations?

Mrs Thatcher: The system we have in need of reform. The substantial structure will, of course, stay (loud Labour laughter and cheers).

Mr Harry Cohen (Leyton, Lab) asked the Prime Minister to consider the case of a "lollipop lady" in his constituency, who lives in a maisonette with her husband, young daughter and two teenage sons now would be faced with an extra bill for poll tax of £1,138 a year. "Can it be stopped or will the Government's poll-tax juggernaut run down my lollipop lady?"

Mrs Thatcher: If they have a community charge of that description, they must have an extravagant local authority (laughter). That is partly the trouble.

Left-wing local authorities put up rent and rates and the taxpayer cannot afford it. Perhaps that lollipop lady and many others will remember that the amount spent on social security, on health in particular, and pensions, has vastly increased beyond anything contemplated eight years ago.

Mr Ray Powell (Ogmore, Lab) asked whether the fact that Mrs Thatcher was not prepared to reply to Mr Kinnock meant that he and other Labour MPs

had continually to badger the Government into realizing that changes were needed in social security.

Will she answer my straightforward question, as she failed to answer Mr Kinnock? Are there to be any changes to housing benefits in the new proposals for social security?

Labour MPs: Say yes.

Mrs Thatcher: I answer as I answered Mr Kinnock, that this year £46 billion is being spent on social security, far in excess of anything contemplated seven or eight years ago, and there are more pensioners and the eligibility of disabled people has been increased.

Mr Rhodri Morgan (Cardiff West, Lab) asked for Mrs Thatcher's assistance in advising a woman of 76 in his constituency who, as a result of social security changes, would receive, in housing benefit, £11 less a week.

Mrs Thatcher: It is not possible to deal with individual cases. Whenever I try to do so, I find that there are material things which have not been fully dealt with in the question.

## Worry over Ireland speech

Mrs Thatcher is seeking reassurance that the weekend speech by Mr Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, does not mean that the Irish Government is backing away from its responsibilities, she said at question time, amid Labour protests.

Mr Michael Mates (East Hampshire, C), is it not unhelpful for the Irish Prime Minister to make such a savage attack on British Government policies as he did at the weekend. It was irresponsible in particular to have advocated a unitary state in Ireland when his own Government so recently put their names to a document forecasting that until a majority there wanted it to happen.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, I agree with him. The highest priority must be the defeat of terrorism. We shall continue to press for that and to seek reassurance from the Irish Government that that speech does not mean that they are backing away from their responsibilities.

## US 'army of occupation'

American forces in Britain were described as "an army of occupation" by Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North, Lab) during defence questions. He said that it was time for these forces to leave.

Mr Ian Stewart, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said that there were usually about 30,000 United States Service personnel in the UK. The Government made available 66 bases and facilities for US forces.

Mr Corbyn had said that a CND publication put the total number of bases at 137, but that organization tended to be misleading and inaccurate and it sounded as if this latest example was no exception.

## Trident costs 'are lower'

There has been a reduction of £376 million in the latest estimate of the cost of the Trident nuclear submarine system, Mr George Young, Secretary of State for Defence, said during questions.

Mr Max Madden (Bradford West, Lab) said that there was a widespread suspicion that the Government was concealing the true cost of the system and many people believed that it was now running at £1,000 million, the equivalent of £33,000 a day for the next 1,000 years.

Hopes for more nurses

The pay award to nurses meant that more could be recruited where there were shortages in areas such as paediatric units and intensive care, Mrs Thatcher told MPs at question time.

## Poll tax Bill

The Local Government Finance Bill, the measure for introducing the community charge, was given its formal first reading in the House of Lords.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scotland. Debate on Opposition motion on housing benefit changes. Licensing Bill, Lords amendments. British Railways (No 2) Bill, second reading.

Lords (2.30): Debates on public health and on the BBC.

## Brittan criticizes ferry 'blockade'

The worsening F&O dispute was raised at Prime Minister's questions and during points of order.

It was unacceptable that picketing should turn to a blockade, Mr Leon Brittan (Richmond, Yorks, C) told the Prime Minister during question time. Mrs Thatcher agreed that the only right to picket was a right to do so peacefully.

Mr Brittan added: Will she make clear that those who want to go to work have a right to do so and will be protected from violence and intimidation.

Mrs Thatcher: Any violence is a criminal matter and people who resort to it must expect to be dealt with accordingly.

Later, Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab), raising a point of order, asked if the

Speaker had had any indication that the issue of the dispute was to be raised in a statement to the House on Wednesday.

"It could be that the lives of many citizens of this country will be put at risk because they could be sailing in ships which are not properly manned and which are not covered by agreed trade union agreements. That could lead to a very difficult situation."

The Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, said that he had received no request for such a statement, but what had been said would have been heard by the Government front bench.

Mr David Shaw (Dover, C) said that if there was to be a statement, he hoped that it would not be obstructed by false statements from the Opposition front bench.

## Royal Ascot first in priorities list

By Sheila Gynn  
Political Staff

If the House of Lords votes against the flat-rate poll tax one thing is certain: Lord "Bertie" Denham, the Government Chief Whip, will do his best to make sure that it is not at 4pm on a Monday in the third week of June.

Such timing could be disastrous from his viewpoint, on four counts: Monday is never an easy day to entice peers from distant haunts; the "City" vote can not be relied on before 5pm; and during that week he must compete with both Royal Ascot and the West Indians' tour.

Racing and cricket apart, Conservative peers may also be enticed away by other diversions in June and July, such as Wimbledon, Glorious Goodwood and, to a lesser extent nowadays, Henley.

In addition, crucial votes early in the afternoon are nerve-racking, unpredictable affairs for the Conservative whips when there are royal garden parties up the road.

That the fate of the flagship of the Government's legislation, the poll tax, may lie with the time and date of a particular vote is an accepted irony in the upper chamber.

It is an issue that is normally regulated "through the usual channels". In layman's terms, that means the whips of all parties get together and nego-



Lord Denham: All a matter of careful timing

tiate when the most important amendments come up and how long the House will sit.

There is always a slight air of tension among the whips when an important vote takes place after 7.30pm, the dinner hour, when many peers from all benches start to drift away. In a predominantly elderly and unpaid House, late sittings are unpopular and late divisions rarely muster more than 100 votes.

Thursday evenings are another vulnerable time, particularly for Opposition whips, because peers living out of town like to get home at a reasonable time. Wednesdays, on the other hand, are normally devoted to debates instead of revising important Bills and votes are rare.

## Scottish housing Bill Security pledge for widows

## HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government announced concessions during the report stage of the Housing (Scotland) Bill to reassure widows and widowers that they cannot be evicted if their spouse dies.

Lord Sanderson of Bowden, Minister of State, Scottish Office, announced that the Government will be bringing forward a series of amendments at the Bill's report stage after consultation on the rights of future housing association tenants in Scotland.

He said these will include providing tenants under assured tenancies with a written statement setting out the conditions of the tenancy.

He added that that would provide a framework for all discussions about rights and ensure that the both the landlord and tenant were clear about their respective responsibilities.

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"We shall also bring forward at report stage amendments which will give the spouse of a tenant who dies the right to continue an assured tenancy."

"We have been impressed by arguments that this is a right of such importance that it needs to be incorporated in statute rather than left to contractual arrangements between landlords and tenants."

Although housing associations and landlords generally were not likely to try to evict widows and widowers, even the remote possibility was likely to prove upsetting to someone whose spouse had died or was near death.

"We do not wish to deprive

widows or widowers of peace of mind about their housing."

"This is a humanitarian question rather than a matter of the strict logic of the landlord-tenant relationship."

The Bill did not affect the right of existing housing association tenants at all, but only those who become tenants after it takes effect.

He said that the Government had already made concessions in the Bill so that existing tenants who moved from one home to another owned by the same housing association could keep their existing tenancy rights.

It had already made changes to the Bill so that the security of tenure provisions for assured tenancies were similar to those for existing housing association tenants.

main intention was to facilitate investment by the private sector in assets which, when the scheme was completed, would be owned, operated and controlled by the private sector.

Dr Cunningham said that this important statement was a massive climbdown from the one on March 9 which Mr Ridley had made, on his own admission, when he had not known what was going on.

"We have seen just how ill considered and wrong-headed that statement was." It had been a political statement, not motivated by any commonsense evidence or investigation of the circumstances.

Earlier, Dr Cunningham moved an Opposition amendment to delete from the Bill the section which, he said, would allow the Secretary of State for the Environment retrospectively to control, cap or reduce the poll tax of every local authority in England. It was rejected by 314 votes to 219 - Government majority 95.

Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State, Scottish Office, moved the first of a series of amendments designed to bring the poll tax provisions in Scotland into line with the equivalent provisions in England. It was carried by 329 votes to 230 - Government majority 99.

Moving third reading, Mr Ridley said that the principle of the Bill had been challenged repeatedly, but no superior alternative had been found.

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# Worry over Ireland speech

## US 'army of occupation'

100



10 Piece	11 Deam	12 As-
18 Bohemian	29 Cram	22 Un-
5 Kyphosis	6 Overt	
16 Sunrise	17 Pimple	

**SOLUTION TO NO 1549**  
**CROSS:** 1 Hammarståld 9 Assizes 10 Piece 11 Deem 12 As-  
 sorted 14 Rye 15 Hail 16 Sap 18 Bohemian 20 Cram 22 Un-  
 til 23 Initial 24 Bend sinister  
**DOWN:** 2 Austere 3 Maze 4 Resuscitation 5 Kyphosis 6 Overt  
 7 Dread 8 Wander 13 Shambles 16 Sunrise 17 Pimple  
 18 Blurb 19 Hit on 21 Miss

ities may serve to restore links between farmers and the community that have been eroded in recent years by disputes over conservation issues. Times are changing, and quite possibly for the better.

WHATEVER

ER SHAPE YOU

OUR GARDEN'S I

## WHATEVER SHAPE YOUR GARDEN'S IN



Cynosure is the word, and while etymologists among you will protest that it means nothing more remarkable than the sleazier end of a dog, even so I am rarely it. Last Friday, however, I was. Only for a tenth of a second, mind, but the impression so etched itself upon the retina as to enable me, in the still watches of the night, to regenerate the entire tableau on the ceiling, luminous and slightly trembling, like the spectre of a filament in that nano-second after the bulb has been switched off.

I see two dozen heads, frozen in half-swivel, and four dozen eyes auto-focusing; and I see the look in those eyes traversing instantaneously the wide gamut from expectation to disappointment — furnishing me, as the irises dull, with an invaluable statistic. Which is that it takes the average luncher one tenth of a second to distinguish between me and the Duchess of York.

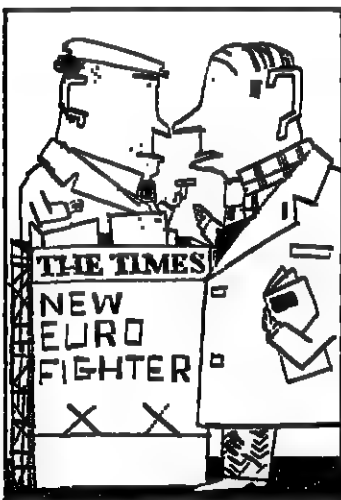
We were both late, but I was earlier than she was. Enjoyed by my host at *Punch* to scramble at 12.30 sharp, toscaps buffed, cuticles pared, ears Brilloued, in good time for the Titian epiphany at 12.45, I sprang into my cab at noon with all the alacrity of Sherlock Holmes sniffing a whiff of Norwood infamy on the breeze. I had, however, reckoned without a team of saboteurs who had chosen that day to resurface Piccadilly, very slowly and a foot or so in front of our radiator. As we crawled behind their roller, like mourners at the state funeral of an eminent navvy, the minutes ebbed so that it was not until 12.50 that I finally hove to in Tudor Street and took the stairs three at a time, praying that dripping dead at the royal feet would be sufficient atonement for so gravely infringing protocol.

As I sprinted down the long corridor towards the dining-room I instinctively noted that the excited buzz towards which I was hurtling was rapidly fading. This was either some freak effect which Doppler had somehow overlooked, or else the crowd was incomprehensibly falling silent. Why should small talk so suddenly collapse?

The instant I burst through the doors, all became clear. It was there, in the 48 eyes. The waiting mob had heard the hurrying footfalls, and, too tense to wonder why the Duchess should be hurdling furniture, endowed them with spurious regality. For my part, I used the same split second to register the absence of anything flame-haired, and immediately got down to pledging my relief in vodka.

This might have been something of a mistake but, quite fortuitously, turned out to be just the opposite. For, in the event, the Duchess did not show until 1.30, by which time a fair percentage of the aforementioned eyes were rolling around like marbles in a saucer, since a combination of nervous hacks, delayed royalty, and a roomful of bottles is, you will appreciate, a fissile formula. But all subsequently went so uproariously that I find myself wondering whether the delay might not have been orchestrated by HRH's canny advisers who, wise to her delightful ebullience, had carefully calculated how best to manufacture the setting most favourable to it.

BARRY FANTONI



'Spain, Italy, West Germany — hardly anyone left to use it on'

It is a book from which the organizers could well take a leaf in time for the next Conversationalist of the Year competition. On the judging panel last Sunday for this year's finals, I could not but reflect that a beaded bubble or two might have eased the contestants' bumpy ride.

While it is a noble competition, jointly sponsored by LBC and Dewhurst in a very worthy cause — fund-raising for research into spina bifida and hydrocephalus — it is fought out in the most unconvivial circumstances imaginable.

The two plucky finalists, Denise Danks and Neil Warren, having talked non-stop to umpteen less successful chatters for two full days, were required to face one another at last across a trestle table in the echoing vault of the Glaziers Hall, with the serried judges enthroned above them on a beeting dais, a crowd around them of critical ears, and between them nothing but an LBC microphone to pump their impromptu words, live, into the wider world, and, immeasurably worse, a carafe of tap-water on which to do it.

To do what? To talk non-stop for a full hour on the subject, revealed to them as the flag fell, of "Sunday". And they were required to do it sober.

I have to say that they made a splendid fist of it. But the pressure told, and Neil became the hapless casualty of his own desperate inventiveness. Having covered everything that there was to be covered on the topic of Sunday, he found himself — or was driven by Denise — up a dreadful cul-de-sac where consequences lay which I dare not begin to imagine.

He began rubbishing his in-laws. The true hell of his Sundays began, unstopably, to emerge. And he had, in his headlong revelations, forgotten that this, unlike the earlier rounds, was being broadcast: the in-laws at home, plugged in, surely, and rooting for their champion, would have found their smiling faces turning gradually to stone. In horror we watched, realizing what Neil had not realized, and powerless, in our juridical objectivity, to save him from himself.

As the battle lines are drawn at Dover in the three-month-old P&O dispute, there is much more at stake than the jobs of 720 seamen and the future of a ferry company. The seamen's union is fighting for its life: the ferry companies for theirs.

The National Union of Seamen has already lost on the deep-sea ships. Flags of convenience now fly on what were once British vessels. British crews have been replaced by foreigners. Now the union can no longer rely on the once-safe routes across the Channel. First there was the Zebrugge disaster. The Townsend-Thoresen flag which flew on the Herald of Free Enterprise has been replaced on its sister ships by the red, blue, white and yellow flag of P&O, one of the proudest names on the oceans.

Now the entire Channel fleet is threatened by the Channel Tunnel and by what the opposing sides see as the obnoxious of the other. The company says it cannot exist with present manning levels: the union says the company is being unreasonable. On the harbour wall stands the rival Sealink British Ferries waiting for the result of the dispute, ready to do its own deal without the agony being faced by the present protagonists. It is an all too familiar story in British industrial relations.

Both the company and the

Rodney Cowton and Roland Rudd on the implications of the P&O strike

## Two-way fight for survival

NUS know there will have to be drastic changes in the operation and manning of the ferries. The present dispute is over how, and at what pace these changes are to be achieved.

The ferry companies will have to face two key factors within the next five years. One is competition from the Channel Tunnel, due to open to the public in May 1993: the other the introduction of the single European market a year earlier, when trading barriers within the European Community are to disappear. Whatever happens in this dispute there will still have to be a drastic rationalization. One plan being considered is to use fewer but larger ships in a pooled service from Dover. This, with other economies, should result in fares about 40 per cent below current levels.

The NUS accepts a lot of the argument but believes it is in imminent danger of being destroyed by P&O's decision to withdraw from the Merchant Navy Establishment — the 40-year-old agreement between the

union and employers to regulate the supply of labour. The immediate effect was felt yesterday by the ferryman dismissed for not accepting the company's new terms and conditions reflected in what is known as the Red Book. But the long-term effect could be felt by every one of the NUS's 18,500 members who are now engaged in active work. If P&O sticks to its intention, all the union's recognition agreements with about 55 shipping companies, covering 400 ships, could be at risk.

The signs are already there: when P&O first announced its controversial rationalization package, Mr Jim Sherwood, chairman of Sea Containers, Sealink's parent company, said his company might have to follow suit. Both companies say the cost of running the ferries is simply too high.

Over the past five years P&O's costs have increased by 27 per cent, while revenue has been declining. The company believes the most effective way of achiev-

ing its aim is to rationalize all ferry manning to a standard 2.5 crews per ship. Only the Portsmouth to Le Havre vessel is manned in this way. The Dover-Zeebrugge and Dover-Boulogne routes are run at 3.6 crews per ship. Under new proposals, known as Option B and put forward by the conciliation service, Acas, the company is willing to settle for three full crews per ship on the understanding that it would make a saving of at least £6 million.

This would have led to 362 job losses instead of the 460 sought by the company and involve seamen spending 24 hours at a time on board instead of the 72 currently being demanded. But Mr Sam McCuskie, the outspoken general secretary of the NUS, promised his members that he would never put his signature to such an agreement which, he alleged, would drastically worsen the conditions of the seamen.

P&O do, however, face a problem with their officers: the decision to withdraw recognition

from the NUS has created confusion within the ranks of Numast, the moderate union representing the officers. The Government's Merchant Shipping Bill, aimed at preventing another ferry disaster, has had its third reading and will later this week go back to the House of Lords for its final stages. Under it, officers could be personally liable to a two-year prison sentence and a fine of £50,000 for sailing an unsafe ship.

The dispute at Dover is more than a local argument. It has also become part of the general question of union power and the Government will use it as evidence that its trade union reforms do limit disruption.

The ferry companies have consistently used the Government's trade union legislation to thwart NUS plans to hold a national strike. Sealink British Ferries originally won an injunction against the union last February when it called an all-out stoppage over the dismissal of 116 crew men in the Isle of Man without balloting members.

Mr McCuskie, after making many claims that the strike would continue, called off the national stoppage. When the same company warned that it might have to embark on a similar rationalization programme as that proposed by P&O, the union held a strike ballot of its members working on Sealink ferries. Again the company went to court and won a further injunction to stop the strike.

As the P&O ships were being prepared for sail in Rotterdam last night, the company was feeling confident that it could recruit sufficient experienced seamen to run at least a skeleton service from Dover.

The unions were concentrating on the genuine issue of safety. P&O, which took over Townsend-Thoresen only a few weeks before the Zebrugge disaster, was insistent that safety would not be impaired. The union, however, made the simple point, supported by officers, that with fewer and inexperienced crew on board working longer hours, then safety must be at risk.

The dispute will consist of many skirmishes. The company will have won the first and crucial one when the first ferry crosses the Channel with paying passengers. The longer this is put off, the greater the union's chance of success.

Conor Cruise O'Brien

## Dukakis for President

New York

I now think it probable that next November Michael Dukakis will be elected President of the United States. He has been greatly under-estimated by the American media, and consequently also by the international media. The word "dull" has been attached to him so often in media commentary as to become a Homeric epithet. His dullness was regularly and adversely contrasted with Jesse Jackson's passion, some of which, absurdly, Dukakis was advised to acquire.

Actually both Dukakis and Jackson have been fighting excellent campaigns, of contrasting types. Jackson wanted to get out the whole vote of his maximum constituencies — almost all blacks, most hispanics, plus left-wing whites — in order to mobilize maximum strength at the Atlanta convention in July. The key to that particular vote is the display of populist eloquence and passion, of which Jackson has given all he has got, which is plenty. I attended a Jackson rally at Albany earlier this month; while I admired his passion, I thought it was well under the control of his rational faculties.

Jackson's potential constituency is not enough to win the presidency this year, and I think Jackson knows this. His hope is to build up a very strong power base in the Democratic Party, at the convention and thereafter for four or eight years, under a Democratic president. Jackson today is a long-distance runner. He is young, and can look forward not merely to 1992 but to 1996. And it is in his interests that the Democrats win this time; whatever the ticket, Jackson needs Dukakis, and Dukakis needs Jackson, and both campaigns reflect this.

Dukakis, unlike Jackson, has the White House in his sights this time round. He is thinking beyond Atlanta, to the election itself, and that consideration requires him, at this stage, to fight a dull campaign. Even if

Dukakis could compete in passion with Jackson in running for the nomination, the legacy of that competition would be likely to destroy his campaign in the contest for the presidency against George Bush. To compete with Jackson for his constituency would have put Dukakis way out of sight as far as floating voters are concerned.

Dukakis could have boosted his image by attacking Jackson. Sensibly he refrained, and instead got attacked himself, by Al Gore in the New York primary, for not attacking Jackson. Gore, who is anti-Jewish votes, hopes to attract Jewish votes, which are anti-Jackson because of Jackson's anti-semitic capers in his regrettable 1984 campaign. Dukakis instead relied on the eloquence of his position as front runner, marginally ahead of Jackson. Dukakis ended up with 77 per cent of the Jewish vote, as well as 51 per cent of the overall vote. Gore's intervention actually helped the Dukakis campaign, by deflecting black resentment on to Gore himself, and Gore's exuberant backer, Mayor Ed Koch.

Assuming, as seems likely at present, that Dukakis gets the Democratic presidential nomination at Atlanta, what then becomes of Jackson? At one time Democrats feared that if Jackson didn't get the nomination he might refuse to support the Democratic ticket, thus making the Democratic candidate unelectable for lack of black votes. That fear diminished when Jackson said in New York: "... we should not have the notion, the attitude, that if I do not win, I take my marbles and go home."

It is clear that Jackson is prepared to support a Democratic presidential nominee other than himself. But assuming that he goes to Atlanta as a strong second runner, he will then insist on the vice-presidential slot. If so, most senior Democrats believe the ticket will be a loser; not just because Jackson is black



but because a Dukakis-Jackson ticket would be too northern and too far left. On this view, if Dukakis is the presidential nominee, what the ticket needs is a conservative white southerner in the vice-presidential slot: perhaps Sam Nunn of Georgia. But a Dukakis-Nunn ticket (or anything similar) would also be a loser unless Jackson campaigns for it.

If my estimate of Jackson is correct, he will settle for something other than the vice-presidential slot in 1988. It is clearly in his interests to do so. If he were to insist on running with Dukakis, he would carry the blame in the likely event of

defeat. His political future would be seriously compromised, if not finished. There is no future in American national politics outside the Democratic Party for a Jesse Jackson. Knowing this, he is unlikely to leave the Democratic Party.

If, on the other hand, Jackson campaigned for (say) a Dukakis-Nunn ticket, the party would be hugely in his debt. He could have a great share in writing the Democratic platform, and if the ticket were to win, he could look forward to a cabinet post.

I think Jackson will stay aboard. If so, Dukakis, with a reassuring running mate and a united party behind him, will go

on to fight George Bush. And if so, Dukakis ought to win handily. Polls show Dukakis as running ahead of Bush, even before the New York primary. Dukakis, with years of experience as a very successful governor, can talk with brisk and convincing competence about topics that interest millions of Americans: the economy, jobs, the problems of the cities. And he has done more than talk. This month, as governor of Massachusetts, Dukakis introduced a social insurance scheme, unique in America, designed to cover all inhabitants of the state. George Bush, knowing his

opponent's strength in domestic matters, and having no equivalent expertise, let it be known that his campaign proposes to concentrate on foreign affairs. That hardly sounds like a winner, especially coming from a member of the team that dreamed up Irangate.

Bush is really a pretty miserable candidate. Reagan without Reagan's charm. Reagan's coat-tails have pulled him through easily to the Republican nomination but they will hardly take him through to the presidency (unless the Jackson factor plays into his hands). As a presidential candidate Bush adds nothing to the basic constituency of the Republican faithful, and that constituency by itself is not enough to get him elected. There are more Democrats than there are Republicans.

So far Dukakis has fought a brilliantly dull campaign against Democratic antagonists without offending anyone whose help he will need in Atlanta and after. Especially Jackson. But if Dukakis comes safely through Atlanta he won't have to sound dull any more. He need not worry about antagonizing Republicans — and he will have plenty to antagonize them with. There are lots of skeletons still in the Reaganite cupboard — with regard to Ed Meese, the Attorney General, the rattling of bones has become so nerve-racking in recent weeks as to cause senior departmental officials to resign in droves.

George Bush has to stand on the record of the Reagan administration. So Dukakis can talk about that without appearing vindictive: the sort of thing he does well. He comes across as a likeable candidate, as well as an intelligent one. Bush appears to be neither.

Michael Dukakis might have been thought dull compared with Jesse Jackson. But compared with George Bush he will seem very bright indeed.

Commentary • DIGBY ANDERSON

## Consuming guilt

The standard has at last been raised. I did not have time to catch the bearer's name or record his remarks but the gist will do. He is president of the Venetian Hoteliers Association and was talking on BBC radio's holiday programme *Breakaway*. He was superb.

Venice has a tourist problem: too many tourists, too little space, too few beds. Who to blame? The president had available to him the standard list of culprits that journalists denounce. Why not an attack on the Venice council for, say, failure to plan extra facilities, the local tourism office for, perhaps, brochures obscuring the shortage of beds, the government for inadequate "infrastructure", or unscrupulous package and other holiday companies for profiteering? All these he ignored.

The trouble, he explained, was the tourists themselves. They came knowing nothing, with no culture and no interest in architecture. They only knew Venice as a city on water. When they arrived, they had no idea where to go or what to do and didn't want to do any of the things any educated person would do. They went straight to St Mark's Square — the only place they knew about. Crowds and crowds of them went there and "hung about". All they do is "hang about, like sheep." They can't even bother to dress properly and show the city the respect it deserves.

Now, I do not want to get into an argument about the accuracy of the remarks or whether I heard them correctly. What was so superb about them and so very unusual was a man who was prepared to say the trouble is

you: you the listener, you the reader, you the tourist, you the customer. Not any one of a hundred things but you — alright, yes.

Some days earlier, the usually perceptive Egon Ronay had written a column campaigning to improve food in Britain's shops, canteens, restaurants and hotels. Who was at fault? "I accuse tinned soup manufacturers... the Milk Marketing Board... jam makers... the Minister of Agriculture... Edwina Currie... caterers everywhere... obnoxious hotel catering managers... butchers... supermarkets... salad cream makers... manufacturers of children's food... restaurants... and one of the Heathrow caterers."

Such campaigns, when well-informed, are welcome: not only do they keep the suppliers on their toes, they actually let us know what a group of consumers wants. But I have a feeling that if the Venetian hotelier had written it, the column would have been longer, with at least one extra item.

Why not "accuse" housewives who have never learned how to cook, don't know how to shop or who know but are too lazy, mean or selfish to bother to do either properly and demand the second rate; restaurant customers who arrive late or drunk, insist on endless steak and black forest gateaux and won't touch fish with bones; customers who won't wait for food to be freshly cooked, parents who have been too idle to teach their children to sit still at table for 20 minutes?

Problems which occur when the Government has interfered may be properly, at least partly, blamed on government; simi-

larly with private monopolies. But in much of life, consumers do have a fairly free choice. And when the consumer is sovereign, surely what the pundits call low standards have to be laid fairly and squarely at the consumer's door.

The worry is that the consumer, the lazy housewife, her husband late, drunk or boorish in the restaurant and their careering, indisciplined child are the newspaper's readers. It depends on them for its income. There is, then, a very good reason why they are not often accused. Most allegations of media bias are exaggerated and irrelevant but this is a bias to which the media are structurally predisposed. They are too often reluctant to blame the general consumer because he is the general reader.

The temptation of the left-wing journalist is to present this consumer as exploited by selfish, profit-seeking industries while his right-wing colleague sees the consumer's enemy as big government. Neither has much time or appetite for those occasions when the fault, if fault it be, lies with the consumer himself.

But if it is a fault, if the media have a role in increasing consumer satisfaction and educating consumer taste, and if Thatcherism is enlarging the realm of consumer sovereignty, then we will need many more journalists prepared to follow the Venetian standard and throw the analysis and invective they have so usefully deployed on the private sector and the state into an assault on the consumer and reader.

The author is Director of The Social Affairs Unit.

SCIENCE REPORT

## Cluster buster

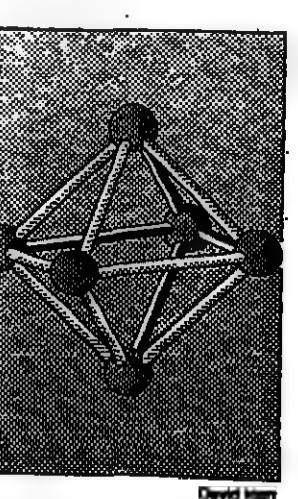
A short sequence of so-called "magic" numbers, long known to codify the stability of atomic nuclei, also seems to describe the stability of small clusters of atoms. The magic numbers are 2, 8, 20, 50 and 82.

This previously unsuspected connection between nuclear and atomic physics is advanced by G.S. Anagnostatos, of the Greek National Research Centre, Demokritos, Anagnostatos, now on a fellowship at the University of Maryland in the United States, describes his findings in the European journal *Physics Letters A* this month.

Cluster physics, a new field of study, is driven by the question "How small can a grain of material be and still be counted as a solid?" The question may help define the limits that can be reached in making electronic devices smaller (and therefore faster), but deliberately designed clusters may also be powerful chemical catalysts.

Several techniques have been developed for making clusters containing only tens or hundreds of atoms, usually by looking for aggregations of atoms in a vapour. When there are 100 atoms or fewer in a cluster, metals cease to be metallic and crystals lose their characteristic form. By ordinary standards, these clusters are submicroscopic: the smallest grains of material visible to the human eye contain thousands of billions of atoms.

Like many others, Anagnostatos is seeking rules to tell whether clusters containing particular numbers of atoms are especially stable. The surprise is that the same sequence of numbers lists both the stable atomic clusters and the packing of particles in the nuclei of atoms.



David Hertz

states is seeking rules to tell whether clusters containing particular numbers of atoms are especially stable. The surprise is that the same sequence of numbers lists both the stable atomic clusters and the packing of particles in the nuclei of atoms.

Atomic nuclei are very much smaller, with dimensions only about one millionth the size of those of clusters. Each different nucleus is made from a characteristic number of the nuclear particles called neutrons and protons. It has been known for 20 years that nuclei containing numbers of neutrons and protons from the list of magic numbers are especially stable.

Because the forces holding neutrons and protons together in a nucleus are entirely different from those between the atoms in a small cluster, it

is surprising that the same list of magic numbers should apply in both.

It is especially surprising that Anagnostatos reaches his conclusion on the simplest of all assumptions, that the atoms in a cluster behave as if they were merely billiard balls and that the problem of telling which clusters are stable is simply that of telling how spherical objects of the appropriate size will most compactly pack together.

This reduces the packing of atoms in small clusters to a problem of geometry. Anagnostatos is especially concerned when atoms of different size, alkali atoms such as sodium or potassium for example, are packed together in a single cluster. He finds that this is most simply done when the two different kinds of atoms are separately arranged in simple polyhedral shapes, such as the eight-faced octahedron (with six corners at which atoms are placed).

On this view, the nearly spherical shells are nested inside one another as if they were Russian dolls. To fit two shells neatly together requires that the atoms in one shell fit into the gaps in the other. Finding the stable structures is then just a matter of counting the number of atoms in different shells.

Part of the interest in this work is that it shows how simple methods can lead to important conclusions.

ROLAND PEASE

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حكايات الجاهل

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Postgraduates and poverty trap

From Professor G. V. R. Born, FRS, and others

The letter from Dr Worwood (April 20) on the effect of the social security reforms on British students, which you published under the caption "Science obstacle", should rather have been headed "Death from a thousand cuts".

Since reductions in Government funding for university research have made it increasingly difficult to employ personnel at the research-assistant level, much of the real research work is now done by postgraduate students paid by a maintenance grant. As Dr Worwood points out, this grant is woefully inadequate, and loss of benefits has made the position of many postgraduate students impossible.

His example of a postgraduate student severely disadvantaged in this way could be repeated at least eight times in this department, with even greater emphasis. There must be at least 1,000 students seriously at risk in the University of London, where loss of housing benefit is a particularly severe blow to postgraduates trying to cope with the cost of accommodation in this city.

For the very highly qualified and hard-working young people to see the poverty trap opening inexorably beneath them is hardly conducive to their continuing in a career in science. If they borrow to cover the cost of their postgraduate education they will subsequently be paid so poorly in research in this country that their only possibility of repaying a loan will be to emigrate. Is this really what the Government wants, a brain drain fuelled by debt?

The situation is now so serious that it seems that the new generation of students graduating this summer will not be able to enter postgraduate research for financial reasons; that is, unless they are sufficiently rich as to be self-supporting. This is truly a return to Victorian values — science as the preserve of the well-to-do. Surely nobody can believe that this will best serve the needs of the country, and in particular those of British industry.

The only solution is either to restore benefits to groups such as students, or to increase the grants paid to postgraduates so that it is truly possible to live on these. The Government must be made to realise the seriousness of the situation before it is too late. The whole future of science in this country, and thereby arguably the whole future of Britain itself, are put at risk by these ill-considered social security "reforms".

Yours faithfully,  
G. V. R. BORN,  
J. M. LITTLETON,  
M. GINSBURG,  
King's College London,  
Department of Pharmacology,  
Strand, WC2.  
April 20.

## Plight of homeless

From the Chairman of Help the Homeless

Sir, Homelessness appears to be at its highest level ever, not only in the capital but in most urban areas. Figures for homelessness are difficult to come by and that problem is exacerbated by the failure of the Department of the Environment to maintain accurate up-to-date information.

Young married couples appear to have an increasingly difficult task in obtaining a foothold on the ever-spiralling ladder, either through renting or buying. In addition, there seems very little suitable accommodation for single people as far as "bed sits" are concerned — the needs of the newly qualified teacher, secretary, nurse, or young Civil Servant come readily to mind.

Has the time not come for the United Kingdom to recognise the basic right of all its citizens to have a roof over their heads (and the

introduction of legislation to that end), in the same way that health care is a social right? Overall, there is no shortage of suitable accommodation in this country if the empty properties in the private and statutory sectors are aggregated.

At the time of the House of Lords debate on homelessness in January this year, it was estimated that there were 102,000 council dwellings standing empty; this is perhaps a mismatch problem between needs and (potential) resources, but that should not be beyond the wit of the enablers to solve if the will to overcome the problems of homelessness is present.

Failure to set realistic targets to alleviate homelessness will, we fear, be costly to society in the long term.

Yours faithfully,  
F. J. BERGIN, Chairman,  
The Homeless,  
33 Long Acre, WC2.  
April 21.

## Home front memorial

From Mr Tony Baldry, MP for Barnby (Conservative)

Sir, There has been some discussion as to what might be commemorated on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square. May I make a further suggestion?

There seems to be a collective national amnesia about the enormous suffering of the civilian population in Britain during the last war and the quite extraordinary response and courage that they displayed to aerial bombardment.

It is a fact that by 1940 more civilians had been killed in London alone than in the whole of the British Army up to then; and by 1945 some 80,000 men, women and children on the home front had been killed. Indeed, in London alone in just the last year of the war, a staggering half-million homes were destroyed or damaged, one fifth of the capital's housing.

Yet, so far as I am aware, there is no memorial for the many hundreds and thousands of those who worked on the home front, in the fire service, ARP (air raid precautions), police service and all the many, many thousands who ensured that Britain did not crumble at home.

As we are now approaching the fiftieth anniversary of the start of the last war, would it not now be appropriate to erect a national memorial to all those who fought and died on the home front?

Yours sincerely,  
TONY BALDRY,  
House of Commons.  
April 20.

## Erosion of research

From Dr D. B. Thomas

Sir, The Chairman of the Humane Research Trust claims (April 15) that universities "cream off" 40 per cent of charitable research grants for "banking the money" and "some modest paper work". Such misconceptions cannot go uncorrected.

Past Government funding enabled universities to accept research grants from charities covering only a fraction of true costs. Generally the charity paid the salaries of the staff recruited for its project, plus costs of necessary equipment and consumables. The university provided supervisory effort and laboratory space, serviced with basic equipment, heating, lighting, telephones, libraries, essential administration, etc. The full cost of the work, calculated using proper cost-accounting methods, was shared roughly equally.

Universities can, unfortunately, no longer afford this regime. Each year they get less money for research, whereas charities seem to have more. The obvious solution is for charities to pick up a higher proportion of the costs, say 75 per cent. Some universities are aiming at this, as your correspondent has evidently discovered.

But charities already enjoy tax advantages through convenient donations. Should they expect any subsidy from universities for the work they commission?

Before charities cry that this would mean funding fewer projects in future, the dangers of the present situation should be pointed out. With universities hard pressed to contribute their expected share, some projects are already starved of adequate underpinning support. A smaller portfolio of properly-funded projects is far preferable to a larger one of under-resourced, and therefore wasteful, projects.

Clearly the universities have failed to get these new messages over. Charities are not being given a raw deal. Indeed, they have been getting such an excellent deal that, along with parts of industry and commerce, and Government departments, all of which pressurize universities to work under grant and contract at well below full cost, they are contributing to the financial deficits now facing many UK universities.

Yours faithfully,  
D. B. THOMAS  
(Director of Industrial Liaison),  
Imperial College of Science and Technology,  
Exhibition Road, SW7.  
April 20.

## New roads key to transport policy

From the Chairman of the British Road Federation Limited

Sir, It is encouraging to read your leader about the need for a coherent transport policy for London (April 16), but I fear that you have overlooked the importance of road transport to Londoners.

As the Greater London Transportation Study recorded, on a typical weekday 64 per cent of all London residents' mechanised journeys are made by car or truck and 18 per cent are made by bus; in contrast the Tube carries just 7 per cent of trips and British Rail only 5 per cent. The balance (taxi, motorbike, etc) are also road journeys.

Most of these car journeys are not controversial — trips by the elderly, young families and commercial companies, who all depend on cars. Furthermore the vast majority of the much maligned car commuters are not travelling to or from central London, where already over 70 per cent of journeys to work are made by public transport.

An efficient and attractive public transport service is vital to London's future prosperity but it cannot solve our Londoners' problems. Accordingly, the need for a modern network of roads cannot be ignored.

Seven million people live inside the M25 where they have to cope with an inadequate road network, less than 2 per cent of which is of dual-carriageway standard. The only realistic way to give Londoners predictable journey time and reliable delivery of goods and services is to improve the roads.

The alternative policy of banning cars, or restraining their use through charging for the use of road space, would mean curtailing the right of Londoners to own and drive a car. Not only would this be politically unpopular, but more importantly it would lead to an outflow of shops, commerce and industry from the restricted areas, with adverse consequences on the inner-city economy and added pressure on the green belt.

Yours faithfully,  
G. V. R. BORN,  
J. M. LITTLETON,  
M. GINSBURG,  
King's College London,  
Department of Pharmacology,  
Strand, WC2.  
April 20.

## A priestly test

From the Reverend R. Schofield

Sir, In his report from Cape Town today (April 22) Michael Housley quotes President Botha as referring to those who would "force liberation theology on the churches from above", and suggests that Archbishop Desmond Tutu was clearly in mind.

That may well be so, but in 1985, when Tutu was Bishop of Johannesburg and I was Warden of the Anglican Seminary in Lesotho, about to admit three of his ordinands, I put the point explicitly to him: "Is some knowledge of liberation theology desirable in your future priests?"

"It is far more important", he replied, "that they should have a sound understanding of the Bible." Yours faithfully,  
RODNEY SCHOFIELD,  
West Monkton Rectory,  
Taunton,  
Somerset.  
April 22.

## 'Glostons' in Korea

From Brigadier S. D. A. Firth

Sir, The Gloucestershire Regiment much appreciated the sensitive and perceptive article by Gavin Bell (April 19) after his visit to the Imjin Valley in Korea.

The regiment are in the process of creating an Imjin Memorial Room in their new museum on the edge of the Gloucester city docks development scheme. It will illustrate the life of men in Gloucestershire in their county regiment in peace and war.

The battle in Korea must be recorded as an important part of the history of our country and county.

Yours sincerely,  
SIMON FIRTH (Chairman,  
Gloucestershire Regiment Museum Development Committee),  
Museum Appeal Office,  
Custom House,  
Commercial Road, Gloucester.  
April 22.

## To make a dog laugh

From Mrs Sara Craven

Sir, Miss Preuss's robin (April 18) has competition. Following a vigorous spring-cleaning of our colliery's somewhat matted winter coat in the garden last weekend we were baffled to discover some of the discarded remnants of her hair lying in our upstairs bedroom grate some three hours later.

The jackdaws, undeterred by our sweep's recent and repeated attempts to clear our chimney of solid nest (built up probably over 30 years), were obviously determined to recolonise immediately. So much for the hair of the dog...

Yours faithfully,  
SARA CRAVEN,  
12 Childwick Green,  
Childwickbury,  
St Albans,  
Hertfordshire.  
April 19.

## From Mr J. R. Hilton

Sir, Margaret de Bunsen's letter (April 22) regarding a neighbour who was able to spin enough wool from the brushings and combings of her large black dog to knit a pair of gloves for herself prompts the thought: would it not have been more humane to have knitted a pullover for the dog?

Yours faithfully,  
J. R. HILTON,  
2 Goldfinch Gardens,  
Merrrow, Guildford, Surrey.  
April 22.

## A more positive approach

would be to encourage the London boroughs to build small urban schemes such as mini urban bypasses, whilst the Government provides a network of new dual carriageways to link outer London to the motorways. Many of these dual carriageways will have to be specially designed, perhaps in tunnel, so as to minimise environmental intrusion.

The top priority must be the provision of a replacement South Circular, perhaps to the south of the present alignment. Whilst this road strategy is being implemented it will also be necessary to integrate private and public transport by encouraging "park and ride", with facilities located around the M25, North Circular and the new South Circular.

We can create a better transport system for London, but it must accommodate the Londoners' wish to own and use cars in the same way as that right is enjoyed throughout the rest of the country. Yours faithfully,

OLAF LAMBERT, Chairman,  
British Road Federation Limited,  
Cowdroy House,  
6 Portugal Street, WC2.

## ON THIS DAY

APRIL 27 1951

Lieutenant Colonel J. P. Carne, commanding the 1st Gloucesters in the Korean War, ordered the battalion, once further resistance was useless, to break out in small parties. Colonel Carne (1906-58) was taken prisoner, but returned to this country in 1953 and was awarded the VC for his part in the Battle of the Imjin River.

## CHINESE THREAT TO SEOUL

U.N. TROOPS WITHEWAW ALONG WHOLE LINE

The general withdrawal of United Nations troops in Korea yesterday brought them to a line less than 20 miles north of Seoul.

The story of how a battalion of The Gloucestershire Regiment, which was surrounded with the British 29th Brigade, bore the brunt of the Chinese assault for 80 hours has now been released by the censorship.

Gloucestershire BEAR THE BRUNT OF AN 80-HOUR BATTLE

The censorship today permitted disclosure in part of some heroic actions by United Nations units. Outstanding among these was that of the battalion of The Gloucestershire Regiment fighting with the British 29th Brigade. When the Chinese waded across the shallow Imjin river on Sunday night the bulk of their attack fell upon this battalion. Cut off, and surrounded, without food and water, it fought for 80 hours.

The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, on their right, went to their help — still with the roses in their helmets with which they had been celebrating St George's Day — but the Chinese drove in between them. Throughout Monday night the Chinese attacked on every side, screaming, blowing bugles, ringing bells, and clashing swords. But the Gloucesters held them and fought back, giving not an inch of ground.

COMMANDER'S ORDER

A battalion from the Philippines fought fiercely in an attempt to break through to their relief, but failed. On Tuesday afternoon a column of British tanks similarly failed. The officer commanding the Gloucesters thereupon sent for his company commanders and ordered them to break out with their men as best they could. The battalion commander, the chaplain, and the medical officer stayed behind with the wounded.

One company decided to fight its way north and then west. An Associated Press correspondent, flying over the enemy lines, saw them walking north through the mountains, straight into the Chinese lines. He said that some of them escaped to safety, but nobody knows how many. Others were eventually rescued by a tank column which broke through from the south...

A leading article commented: "The lessons of the war have been learnt; errors and weaknesses have been corrected; the fighting machine has been raised to a far higher standard of efficiency. Yet in the last resource all depends on the spirit and endurance of the troops, whose handicaps in the fighting go a long way towards balancing their great superiority of armament. They are subjected to a strain greater than that of many more deadly weapons because the objects are more vague and the rewards of sacrifice, other than that of staving off ruin, appear so evanescent. From the way in which they have met this last and most powerful offensive it would appear that they have not only maintained but improved the standard of physical and moral stamina and tenacity which they reached after heavy reverses last winter..."

## THE BATTLE OF DOVER

1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

P&O is trying to break the National Union of Seamen. That is one way of putting it. It is the emotive way — drawing to the dock gates the political thugs who care next to nothing about the NUS, but who care a lot about finding enough industrial disputes to return Britain to the almost permanent picket which was trade unionism in the 1970s. They should not be allowed to succeed.

Another way of describing the dispute is to say that what P&O is trying to break is a labour monopoly, or at least a cartel, which will make cross-Channel ferries ruinously expensive to run in the 1990s. That is the decade which will see competition from the Channel tunnel; also the decade of the single European market which, among other things, will wipe out the ferries' biggest money-spinner: duty free goods.

There will still be ferries, and there will still be plenty of jobs on them, provided manning levels are based on reason rather than reaction. Many industrial goods are better transported on a ferry than through a tunnel. The sea-borne alternative to rail must, however, be economic. Excessive manning levels will not make it so.

It is also possible that the greater trade promoted by the single market will generate more Channel crossings, not fewer. So the battle which P&O is fighting is the kind of battle which was fought at Wapping and which TV-am is fighting now.

Not that the seamen are as undeserving as the newspaper workers and the television technicians. They are not a traditionally rapacious group. Their average annual pay under the new scheme would be between £11,300 and £17,400, which hardly suggests that they have ever been in the Fleet Street or television class. They have plenty of good points to make.

The threat to safety, caused by the use of allegedly unqualified "scab" seamen is not one of them. Trade unions are seldom so unconvincing as when they depict their actions as motivated by a selfless desire to guarantee the public safety. No one is proposing that the ferries be manned by unsupervised novices.

They seem to have a genuine grievance,

however, about the new hours which the company wants them to work — 24 hours on duty and only 24 hours off, compared with 48 hours off in the past. The way this has been arranged by the company suggests that the men are being asked to do more work for the same pay. This is an issue for independent arbitration.

According to some estimates, about 1,000 union members have indicated that they would be prepared to work under these conditions, though they will not cross picket lines. According to some estimates, the workforce looks evenly split between those who want to stop the new arrangements and those prepared to work under them. This hardly suggests that they are completely unacceptable.

It is a sad dispute because these are men who have a genuine fear about their future. Unlike some members of previous labour monopolies, NUS members tend not to be barons of the black economy.

But they have no right to prevent other men doing the work they have refused to do, or to prevent other workers — such as lorry drivers — going about their business. The time is long passed when a union should be allowed to cover with opprobrium any man who takes a job on terms and conditions other than those laid down by a union.

Such a notion comes from an age when the collective was exalted above the individual. Such an attitude lined the pockets of particular collectives at the expense of the individuals it priced out of work. The right of a seaman to strike his own bargain with his employer is one of those fundamental economic rights which, since 1979, have gradually been restored in this country.

That right was being denied by yesterday's mass picket. Lorry drivers should not be allowed to drive straight at the pickets and the police must be even-handed in preventing that. But pickets should not be allowed to stop lorry drivers or other workers from lawfully going where they wish.

## STORY OF A STABBING

There is a case-book of malign consequences arising from the fanaticism of those who march under the banner of "anti-racism" using public money for their campaigns. The fate of the Bradford headmaster, Mr Ray Honeyford, is the most famous. He was hounded from his school as a racist because he had dared to discuss the intolerance of the race relations lobby in education; he had dared to point out the disadvantages suffered by white pupils in schools where 80 or 90 per cent speak English only as a second language, where the languages and culture of the Indian sub-continent are taught at the expense of English language and culture.

Then there was Mr Jonathan Savery, a Bristol teacher employed to teach English to children who lacked it. He fell foul of the "anti-racist" clique dominating the local Multi-cultural Education Centre for what he wrote about the pressure to teach minority languages and cultures instead of English. Although acquitted of racism by a "disciplinary panel" he still lost his job.

Not least, there was Mrs Maureen McGoldrick, the headmistress of a Brent primary school who was suspended for "racism", was reinstated after court proceedings but who eventually decided to leave the borough. Divisive race policies are now widespread in education. But because the evidence for this comes from people without active left wing credentials, it has still not convinced those many "liberals" who prefer theories to reality.

Now, however, there is evidence that should convince them. It comes from the report of a barrister, Mr Ian Macdonald, QC, who represented the families of those who died in the Deptford fire and whose liberal credentials of active concern for ethnic minorities are considered impeccable. He has produced for Manchester City Council a report on events at its Burnage High School which gives the gravest cause for concern.

The report has not been officially published but has been extensively leaked in the *Manchester Evening News*, with a complete verbatim account of the conclusions and

recommendations. The central event was the death of an Asian boy, Ahmed Ullah, who was stabbed by a white pupil.

The killing itself appears not to have been racial. The boy found guilty of it had been known beforehand to have psychiatric problems. He had, indeed, committed arson in the school, as a result of which it had been suggested that he should be expelled. This had been resisted by the headmaster, Dr Gerry Gough, who instead placed him under a deputy's supervision. This proved to be ineffective.

Before the killing there had been no racial incidents apart from the minor sort found in any mixed school. But the seeds of strife had already been set by the headmaster's policy of creating a new community education department apparently serving only the Asian and (small) Afro-Caribbean elements and virtually excluding the whites.

The problems of the ethnic minorities were dealt with by special groups in the school comprising only those from those minorities. Whites were excluded from this anti-racist education. The same principle was applied to parent groups and the school was divided into white and non-white camps. In 1985 a deputation of worried teachers went to the governors to warn them of trouble ahead.

The death of Ahmed Ullah was the fuse that ignited this dynamite. His death was made a community event rather than an individual tragedy and white boys were forbidden to attend his funeral. They seem to have interpreted this as charging them with the guilt of being white and since then there has apparently been one pitched battle in the school and numerous racial incidents.

Manchester City Council should publish the report but that is not enough. Behind the headmaster's misguided zeal lie the malignant theories and "guidelines" that can be found in places all over Britain. The Government should take responsibility and launch an open review of the way race education is being carried out, into whose hands it has fallen and what is to be done about it.

## POLITICS WITHOUT HOPE

With the opening of the new Parliament in Dhaka this week, the past four months of agitation in Bangladesh against the Government of President Ershad appears to have failed. The opposition never succeeded in mobilizing the people. The President has lifted the state of emergency and released political prisoners. In the end he survived without even calling upon the army.

The facade of opposition unity is full of cracks. It has taken strenuous efforts by lower echelons of its various parties to stop their splitting apart already. The divisions are in personality, history, even by ideology, insofar as that word has any meaning in Bangladesh politics. There are disagreements on Islamization, the role of the army, and the issue of presidential versus parliamentary government. There is unity only in the desire to overthrow the President.

Popular dissatisfaction with government in Bangladesh is chronic and stems from the country's economic misery. President Ershad, though a relatively good economic manager, has failed significantly to improve living conditions. As the population rises, living standards have probably even declined in recent years. Monday's general strike in Dhaka will have reminded the President that his position is not completely secure.

But when the opposition parties were themselves in power (led by the father and husband of their present leaders, Sheikh Hasina Wazed and Begum Khaleda) both

failed to bring about more efficient government or real economic progress. Both were accused, with reason, of corruption, electoral fraud, and disregard for human rights.

The melancholy truth is that the area that is now Bangladesh was headed for economic disaster from the day of its separation from India in 1947, when it was stripped of its natural economic hinterland. This legacy has been compounded by Pakistani exploitation, war, natural disaster, over-population, and environmental deterioration.

Any Bangladesh government, faced by these problems, can perhaps be excused for simply trying to hang on. The 85 per cent of the population now living at subsistence level are doing the same. The nature of the government is of little significance for them, for it can give them nothing. International aid helps prevent the human catastrophe which could spill beyond the Bangladesh borders and threaten the region as a whole.

Misery on such a scale makes the attribution of political blame almost meaningless. There is little point in identifying President Ershad as the principal culprit. In the face of appalling odds the whole Bangladesh political class has failed its country.

The events of the past four months have shown the weariness of the mass of the population with all politics. Every now and then, a people without hope stirs briefly against the inexorability of its condition. The agitation in Bangladesh has been such a sliver of history.

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it surprising that the same list of major numbers should apply to both.

It is especially surprising that Antigone reaches his conclusion on the simplest of all assumptions, that the gods are a cluster of bills as if they were merely billiard balls, and that the problem of telling what is right and what is wrong is a matter of which the gods are the arbiters.

This reduces the packing of stories in small clusters to a problem of geometry. Images of a cluster of bills as if they were merely billiard balls, and that the problem of telling what is right and what is wrong is a matter of which the gods are the arbiters.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

Each hurdle was surmounted. Maclean, in his positions of authority, helped by the advent of the first Selborne/Fleet (E) specialists, as well as the unflinching help of the Navy, and, not least, by the unselfish understanding of the founder of that great firm, the Admiralty forty years before.

In his biography of Fleet Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, first only eight days after the forward battle area, through the efforts of the engineering staff, the fleet was often greatly reduced, ships of the fleet ready for action for many days or more.

That the Royal Navy in the Falklands could equal an important operational capability can be directly attributed to the efforts inspired by Maclean and his team, and Maclean's example in striving towards the same and nuclear gas turbines and with the help of the Admiralty Research Department (YARD), the brainchild of Maclean and Sir Harold Yarrow.

the Great Smithfield, where he received encouragement from the incumbent, the Rev Dr N. B. Wallbank, who was a keen musician. It was there that all his early professional years were given.

He went back to the academy as professor of harmony and composition in 1945 and in 1954 was appointed a consultant professor.

His students were taught to play music rather than write music, as the titles of his publications show. He went to Goldsmith's College as principal lecturer in music in 1968 and was a member of the Senate of London University for 11 years.

She was a modest person and perhaps sometimes too modest for others to notice. His sense of humour smoothed away any problems at rehearsals and his appreciation of the music which illuminated his teaching.

Although he was preparing for a good companion, he was too modest and he was too worried about his own work except for his own private life.

He was apart from his family in his garden where he grew the latest organic vegetables. He was made a member of the Order of the British Empire in 1985.

He was surprised by his wife's death after the concert and the death of his daughter. He was a devoted father and a loving husband.

He was a devoted father and a loving husband. He was a devoted father and a loving husband. He was a devoted father and a loving husband.

for mansion

Yet the Lord will command his loving kindness in the day, and in the day of his mercy, he will be with me, and no power shall be able to do me harm.

ALAN... On April 21st, in London, the late Alan... a son of the late Alan... a son of the late Alan...

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DEAN... On April 20th 1988, quietly in hospital, the late Dean... a son of the late Dean... a son of the late Dean...

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SCOTT... On April 22nd, in a London hospital, the late Scott... a son of the late Scott... a son of the late Scott...

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N16 Prof. fem. to share her flat. Own room, N16, all amenities, C24, washing machine, £45 per week. Tel: 01 226 0088 after 6pm.

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More low cost flights via more routes to more destinations than any other agency.

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SAY IT WITH MUSIC  
Say it with MARKSON'S  
Say it with MARKSON'S  
Say it with MARKSON'S

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## THE ARTS

## TELEVISION

## Singular success

A.J.P. Taylor, in his one-man history lectures, showed that there is nothing quite so effective on television as a single person talking to the viewer. It is surprising that the idea has taken so long to transfer from fact to fiction, but *Talking Heads* (BBC1), Alan Bennett's current series of monologues, is making the most of the idea.

Bennett's own appearance in the opening episode last week came close to self-parody, but Patricia Routledge in *A Lady of Letters* last night was vintage Bennett: whimsical, touching, proceeding from the bathetic to touch on the alarming with such raw force that she could have been a character from a Ruth Rendell novel.

Irene was that common phenomenon, a single unoccupied lady with no function in life other than to twitch the curtains and story about the neighbors. But unlike those who just wonder, Irene wrote letters about it, with her trusty Platignum, in great profusion.



Raw force: Patricia Routledge

conjuring up disturbing scenarios about the couple opposite who went out every evening leaving their young child alone in the house.

So, the couple turn out to be visiting their dying child in hospital: so there must be another scandal she can write letters about. Soon Irene is visited by social workers, the vicar, the police...

Patricia Routledge delivered Bennett's one-liners, strung together into mini-scenes and self-confrontations, with great poise, mixing uneasy conviction with total self-doubt. The central statement on life seemed to be: "I sometimes catch myself saying it'll be better the second time round, but this is it, this is my go". Irene was never happier than in the final scene in prison, having acquired skills, friends, and a social context.

Prison loomed large in the first of *The Cook Report* (ITV), which took our warm-hearted hero to Brazil and thence to Israel in search of stolen babies. A truly shocking story, but the fact that many of those involved were already behind bars (though they would admit nothing) took the edge off the investigation.

Interviews were short and incoherent; the confrontation between a real mother and the woman who had bought her baby was also notable for its lack of content, and the actual admission that the baby was stolen took place off camera. This was a more lurid and tabloid report than we have come to expect from Cook.

William Holmes

Japan has for long been an open market for Western theatre, although the approach often results in profound changes from original productions. Marie Myerscough reports on Tokyo's thriving and eclectic theatre scene

## Remade in Japan

## THEATRE

After his internationally-acclaimed *Macbeth* and *Medea* — seen in Edinburgh and London last year — director Yukio Ninagawa has done it again. This time his uniquely Japanese spotlight has been turned on Tennessee Williams's masterpiece, *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Currently enjoying a month's run in Tokyo's Imperial Theatre, once again the Ninagawa transposition works magic. Here is the kind of Japanese touch Williams himself is said to have always hoped for, as the steamy quarter of a 1920s New Orleans becomes a tenement district of a Tokyo in ruins after the city's Great Earthquake of 1923.

The fragile, unstable Blanche, played by well-known film actress Ruriko Asakura, literally, the embittered Polish Stanley (Daisuke Ryu) here a Korean immigrant; Western clothes with Japanese sets: all endorse the play's relevance to a Japanese audience — recalling one of the most turbulent periods of the country's history.

For all its notoriety, though, Ninagawa's *Streetcar* is just one among several hundred Western plays to be performed in Japanese this year. The 1987 line-up included, along with the plethora of Shakespeare, 20th century European and American classics, works by Jean Cocteau, Harold Pinter, Neil Simon, Tom Stoppard and Caryl Churchill and even AIDS — and Black plays.

Japan gets all the latest Western musicals, too — either as Broadway or West End direct "imports" in English, or in translation by a local company. The Japanese *Les Misérables* and a new scaled-up *Starlight Express*, for the Tokyo Olympic Stadium, were last year's hits. *Phantom of the Opera*, opening at the end of April is the current talk of the town.

This, plus the phenomenon of short runs, revivals and an eclectic tradition of worldwide theatre — not just English-speaking — is responsible for Tokyo's lively theatre scene. Japanese theatre scholar, Shinko Matsumoto, though, despairs that outsiders ignore this. Translated plays account for most of Japan's

theatre-going, she asserts. Visitors to Japan frequently remark how Tokyo offers greater choice than other theatre meccas. London and New York not excepted.

Japan's insatiable appetite for Western theatre is no modern fad. Rather, it dates back to the opening up of the country in the late 19th century. Among the new Meiji government-sponsored missions dispatched abroad, representatives for "culture" swarmed into Europe's theatres and brought back to Japan seemingly every text they could lay their hands on.

Plays were soon translated, staged and even assigned a special category, *shingeki*, literally, new drama. Down the years there has been little let-up. While today there is a thriving commercial theatre scene, Western theatre is still largely in the hands of troupes, some of whom date back to the early days.

The artistic approach, however, has changed. The initial loose adaptations, resulting in such productions as the 1903 *Othello* with dance scenes, or *The Merchant of Venice*, soon gave way to more scholarly translations — and nowadays improved versions of the Western originals.

From the beginning the "fertile field of European drama" was at Japanese disposal. As a result, audiences had early access to the whole of Western drama, some of which have only recently premiered in Britain. The trend has continued and now there is hardly a reputable Western play that has not gone into Japanese.

With Shakespeare predictably the most popular, theatre people are so besotted that staggering achievements abound. Professor Yushi Odashima has translated every one of the 37 plays, and director, Norio Deguchi, has directed them all. Actor Tashiro Takahide had major roles in 34. Even Shakespeare's contemporaries are being published and performed.

*Streetcar* itself has had 11 different productions in the last



In a Tokyo tenement: Daisuke Ryu as Stanley, Ruriko Asakura as Blanche, in *A Streetcar Named Desire*

decade. The most famous version, by the Bungaku-za troupe, stars Haruko Sugimura. She has given several hundred performances as Blanche and though now over 80 she is still going strong and still a guaranteed crowd-puller.

Inevitably, though, with so much on, standards vary. A successful production according to Western criteria can be difficult to achieve.

Television and film stars for good box office, and hand-picked casts, can also lower standards. There is an estimated 12 million theatre tickets sold annually in Tokyo, but it is for the hard core of 20,000-30,000 regular theatregoers that producers largely vie.

However, the last few years have seen some attempt to remedy matters, as Japanese companies bring in foreign directors. Western stage designers and other creative artists in increasing numbers have also enhanced Japanese productions.

Through the Japanese penchant for exporting the "upgraded product", the West is becoming fascinated by Japanese interpretations of well-known plays. Annual visitor to Japan, Edinburgh Festival's Director, Frank Dunlop describes it as looking anew at the Western classics. "It is as though the Japanese are from another world, shining a searchlight on our drama. There is no

doubt the excitement of re-discovery comes through to the audience."

However, the ultimate example of Japan's attraction to Western theatre must be Tokyo's new Globe Theatre, just north of Shinjuku. Designed by leading Japanese architect Arata Isozaki — though roofed and in pastel pink — it replicates the London original. Being flown in specially for the opening festival are Shakespeare productions by Michael Bogdanov and Michael Pennington's English Shakespeare Company, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre and the Royal Dramatic Theatre Company of Sweden.

## Life in the labyrinth of let's-pretend

## Temptation The Pit

A writer who has been repeatedly arrested since the freezing of the Prague Spring, Václav Havel reworks the Faust story in his most recent play to stake out the nightmare of life in a totalitarian state, where the individual is trapped in a labyrinth of mistrust.

His learned Doctor Foustka works for some unspecified scientific institute staffed by the famil-

iar bureaucrats going through contortions of servility to avoid falling behind in the survival game. Foustka tries to climb outside the required mechanistic view of the universe, studying hermetic books and invoking dark spirits.

Promptly on cue a mysterious stranger arrives in his room, acquainted with all that passes between Foustka and his colleagues, and offering snappy advice on managing his current affair with Vilma (Julie Legrand),

another colleague, with a passion for let's-pretend games of sexual betrayal.

Pretences soon take on the appearance of reality, when Vilma's other admirer calls with a bunch of violets. Foustka, as Foustka's limping Mephistopheles calls himself, forecasts success with the institute's coffee-girl and so it turns out, in an irresistibly comic scene at the office dance. John Shrapnel's passionate Foustka spouts heretical views on life's meaning to the adoring girl while

the sinister director (Paul Webster) and his staff pair off in waltz time around them.

David Bradley's Foustka is a performance of marvellous originality, a sourly jesting tramp fixing a glittering eye on his victim whose every move takes him closer to the crevasse where he risks losing career, mistress and, most terrible of all, trust in his own perceptions.

There is finally no one in whom it is safe to trust, and Roger Mitchell's taut production shows

Shrapnel giving Foustka consistent development while switching the others abruptly between friendship and enmity as though seen by someone terminally confused.

In the Walpurgis Night costume dance at the end of the play an imaginary hell thrillingly emerges into a real inferno. Surrounded by rutting devils and betrayed on all sides, Havel's Faust figure vanishes into the dark.

Jeremy Kingston

Paul Griffiths

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## Sore Throats Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court

Back in the 1960s it was Howard Brenton who first propelled English drama out of doors, and by retreating into the traditional closed room setting in this "intimate play" of 1979, he seems to have cut one of his creative lifelines.

*Sore Throats*, (the second production in Brenton's Utopian trilogy) presents a wild attempt to break out of society into an instant anarchist paradise. It opens with a brutal marital combat demonstrating middle-class life at its worst. Jack, a politician, visits his abandoned wife, Judy, and asserts his rights in the family house by beating her up.

The play then takes its leap into the unknown with the transformation of the derelict living room into a love nest where Judy and her like-minded friend Sally are gorging themselves on the local male talent after an orgasmic American tour.

Individual character comes second to the clash of moral and

financial imperatives. Still, some degree of plausibility is required; and it is not forthcoming from the girls, and still less from Jack, when he stumbles in with a carrycot (which turns out to contain a brick) with a story of how his mistress gave birth in the Camonian wilderness.

The feeling takes root that none of these characters has ever ventured outside the room, and the only journey they have made is inside their own heads.

Oozing with sexual leaching, the piece seems more intent on revenge than on the pursuit of happiness. And, on those terms, it is unnervingly well played by Linda Marlowe and Hetta Charley, both dissolving into witchy giggles at Jack's story of abandonment and death.

Nancy Dinguiz's production contains a wonderful performance by James Laurenson, who plays Jack as a gentle figure who periodically erupts into extreme violence, which he passes off with a cough or a dazzling smile as though it has nothing to do with him. A painfully down-to-earth figure in a lurid dream.

Irving Wardle

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# Matter of life and death

What made  
Robert Buckman,  
media doctor  
and *Punch*  
columnist,  
write an intensely  
moving book  
about dying?  
Libby Purves  
talked to him



Counsel for comforters: his own brush with death six years ago gave Robert Buckman strength in dealing with other people's pain

We are not too good at death-bed scenes these days. Having lost the sentimental Victorian desire to revel in death, we now hide and deny it in a way that is just as morbid. We worship radiant health and beauty and we intensely dislike the thought of change and decay in any form, let alone the final one. Moreover, medical science has led us to expect last-minute reprieves and miracle cures almost as a right. So we baffle about piling treatment upon treatment until, in a hospital setting, a human death comes to mean no more than a project which has failed something to be brushed briskly aside in favour of the next job. Individual love and grief are all too often slighted.

These things are the preoccupation of Dr Robert Buckman, a British cancer specialist who emigrated to Canada three years ago after some years of combining a serious medical career with an inordinate amount of public clowning. His *Beetles* and *Buckman* stage act with a fellow-doctor developed into *The Pink Medicine Show* on television; and into a weekly column entitled *Doc Brief in Punch* (he is the origin of such lapidary insights as "A person is medically defined as obese when he weighs 7lb more than his doctor").

The appealing thing about Buckman — a slight, lively, friendly man in his fortieth year — is that his heavyweight medical interest is constantly tempered by sympathy for the actual plight of the patient. He dislikes the word, and the way that doctors use it to deny human feeling. "A patient is only a person plus a disease. One of the big subjects that I teach students is how to break bad news. But it's seen as rather a wimpy, womanly aspect of medicine, so I have to be very much as a physician and brandish my PhD so that they'll listen to me and not think I'm some jumped-up social worker." His medical medicine applies also, he says regrettably, to some of the women students, so he vigorously lectures them on empathy: how to listen to the critically ill patient, how to respond in a stark and terrible situation, and how to help rather than frustrate or terrify.

Buckman knows what he is talking about: six years ago he nearly died himself, of dermatomyositis, a rare auto-immune disease, "a sort of opposite of AIDS, where the immune system turns and attacks the body". He went through

the well-charted stages of anger, denial ("actually, I remember saying 'Look, I know all about death, and this isn't it'"), and experienced the deep, central sadness of longing to know he would be remembered. "I most wanted to believe that the people closest to me would not forget me, and that we had achieved some things that would count after I had died. Some people gave me that feeling, and I still love those people dearly." He recovered, and the experience gave him a certain strength in dealing with the pain of other people's last days, and above all a passionate desire to communicate one fact that he — although a determined atheist — sees as centrally important. "Death ends life, but it does not rob it of its meaning. If you want to kill someone, you take the meaning from their life. When you're dying, you need to know that you have been, and will go on being, valuable."

The result of his work, with medical students, patients and their relatives, is a small book published this week called *I Don't Know What to Say*, subtitled "How to Help and Support Someone Who is Dying". It draws on techniques of psychotherapy, but for a sophisticated writer and thinker like Buckman, it is written in a startlingly elementary style. "Well, of course it is. It is designed to be read under duress, right in the firing line. Supporting someone who is dying does tend to lower your intellectual level."

The result is a clear, repetitive and intensely moving handbook on death, with not one punch pulled. Dementing diseases, long, slow, crippling cancers, the deaths of children, of parents, even the sexual needs of a terminally ill lover, are plainly and compassionately explored. There are things in the book which might well have made a publisher flinch, but which undoubtedly had to be said.

**Above all he urges supporters to listen, to avoid saying 'Don't talk about that now'**

There are, for instance, a lot of socially unacceptable emotions flitting around a deathbed. Buckman has seen angry patients beating their spouses for not loving them enough, relatives sitting round the bed nagging the patient for having brought his disease on himself by smoking or eating the wrong things, carers driven to the end of their tether, either refusing to accept the obvious or else hating the dying man or woman and saying "He's doing it deliberately". He has seen,

and deplored, the frantic zeal of relatives who rush around trying to make themselves "world experts" on the disease and bore and frighten the patient with half-digested technicalities. "It's a displacement activity, like when you hit a dog on the nose and it wants to bite you but doesn't, so it goes off and digs a big hole somewhere."

All these things are normal, he reassures, and he provides simple ways of thinking one's way out of such destructive traps. Above all he urges supporters to listen when the dying person wants to discuss funerals, or resuscitation, or terminal pain, or how the family will get on without him, and to avoid at all costs phrases like "Don't talk about that now". He discusses with uncomfortable clarity the psychological and physical pros and cons of trying for endless miracle cures from alternative medicines. "The attitude of 'I'll go anywhere and I'll try anything' has a price tag. The price is the loss of time to be close to each other, and the loss of that tenderness and sensitivity that might have been allowed to grow."

Furthermore, the book displays a healthy scepticism about certain current ways of sweetening the idea of death, such as our preoccupation with whisking terminally ill children off on tremendous outings to Disneyland or wherever. "If a 12-year-old with leukaemia says he wants to go, no problem. Certainly try to widen the range of your

child's experience, but don't do anything too grandiose. Sometimes staying at home with the family is of greater support and reassurance than a big excursion."

He is also cautious when relatives say they want to found a medical trust in memory of their dead child. "I say, come back in a few months. A foundation will be useful to others, perhaps, but not to you. Don't neglect your own grieving for another displacement activity."

He has seen as many ways of dying as there are of living. Some are quiet, some are talkative, some are shockingly prosaic (one elderly relative of my own leaned back on the pillow and observed "Well dear, I'm bugged"). Some — like his own beloved Uncle Barry — are flippant. "The last thing he said was a joke. The point was that at the very end of his life, Barry behaved as himself. I have never forgotten that. It was watching Barry cope with dying that gave me the feeling that death can happen with dignity and integrity. Let your friend let go of life in his own way: it may not be your way or the way you would like to see, and it may not be the way you read about in a book or magazine, but it's his way and consistent with the way he's lived his life."

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1988  
I Don't Know What to Say by Dr Robert Buckman is published on April 28 by Papermac (£6.95)

## Lordly trinkets

The Top Drawer trade exhibition, where gift shop owners go to buy their trinkets, has truly gone top drawer this year with David Linley among the exhibitors for the first time with his new English Farm range of paper goods. For those familiar with his Venetian range, this one — inspired by 19th-century watercolours of the English countryside — has a letter rack like a farmhouse instead of a Doge's palace, diaries and notebooks like a patchwork of fields, and blotters that open to farmyard scenes. Prices will start at about 55p for a sheet of wrapping paper. And yesterday the industrious lord launched four complete new dinnerware designs created exclusively for Mappin & Webb — one of them based on his signature Venetian theme — with co-ordinating crystalware by Royal Brimley. A complete place setting in the Venetian range costs £65, in the Barley range a mere £49. And Mappin & Webb will give two bottles of champagne to any reader of *The Times* (clutching this column) who orders a complete dinner service for six from the David Linley range from any Mappin & Webb branch between May 3 and May 7.

## Six ways to sun

After the three-piece bikini (Fashion Page, yesterday), the sex-kin. Called by Simpson's of Piccadilly "the four-piece bikini", another contradiction in terms, it is actually a six-piece bikini (hence sex-kin). It sold out of the Simpson's catalogue and shop like hot cakes at £29 for three different brief bottoms, a bandeau top and two bows to affix wherever the mood strikes. ("Last year we tried one with three different tops," a spokeswoman for the maker, Samarana, says, "but with so much topsless sunbathing it wasn't that popular. This one we can't get enough of.") If you're quick you might snap one up from Bean Baggage (which has eight branches in London and the Home Counties and will do mail order: telephone 01-520 5147 for details), or Fenwick's in Bond Street and Oxford (also by mail order, 01-629 9161) in sizes 10 to 16.

## Slow-bum foam

The biggest news from this year's London International Furniture Show, open to the trade at Earl's Court until tomorrow, predictably concerns developments in flame retardant foam. Furniture makers warn that prices of upholstered furniture will rocket unless an inexpensive substance is swiftly found. One possible answer could lie in Duflot, a flame retardant barrier cloth produced by the French company, Duflot et Fils, and already apparently used by British Airways, British Rail and Air France. It is placed between the foam and the upholstery to prevent combustion and minimize the possibility of dangerous fumes being given off in the event of fire. Demonstrations of its effectiveness are being given throughout the week.

## BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

### Non-stick ties?

On your guard, Scotchguard: Teflon has come out of the frying pan and is about to invade your home territory. The Du Pont discovery used to create non-stick surfaces in saucepans should shortly be marketed in a spray can, like Scotchguard, and is already being tested as an upholstery protector in cars. One suggested use is to spray on men's ties so that the soap will just slide off. But where will it go? For those who believe that ties were invented to protect shirts, it could be a case of out of the frying pan...

### GH art on view

Women's magazines usually jealously guard their secrets, but housewife *Good Housekeeping* has opened its skeleton-and-dust-free cupboard to the public to produce a striking exhibition of 30 years of artwork by leading photographers and illustrators, on show at Smith's Gallery, 56 Earlham Street, Covent Garden until Saturday. All the works are for sale, and 20 per cent of the proceeds will go to *Good Housekeeping's* charity of the year, the Children of Hope.

### Quote me...



"American women climbed up the career ladder fast; but when they got into the boardrooms they looked around and saw that all the men had pictures of their families on their desks. The women didn't have any pictures of their families. They didn't have any families... so if British employers want to keep women, they will have to consider the family too."  
Joanna Foster, new head (from next week) of the Equal Opportunities Commission

### Colour codes

Barbara Daly, the make-up artist behind so many famous smiles, has produced a video to demystify the tricks of her trade. For a mere £9.99 you can come Face to Face with Barbara Daly and learn how to conceal blemishes, dab away wrinkles and turn imperfections to advantage as only an expert can. The video is available from branches of the Body Shop, where Daly's inexpensive range of Colourings cosmetics is exclusively sold; the idea is that you buy lots of Colourings to experiment with at home.

Victoria McKee

## Teaching stars to stand and deliver

Dorothy Sarnoff has shown nervous celebrities the world over the five Ps and the Squeeze. Now she is due here

Ladies and gentlemen, standing before you on one side is an inarticulate, drab, fidgety poof. On the other is a wizard who holds the secret of how never to be nervous again. Introduce one to the other and what? Poof becomes president. Perspiring interviewee reveals poise, and intelligence. A housewife is turned into an assured speaker.

Dorothy Sarnoff, a celebrated New York image-maker and "speech expert", is the wizard with the magic

wand. When a politician needs help with votes, if a budding celebrity feels too shy to face the public, it is to Sarnoff that they turn for help.

She is the therapist who has tapped into the insecurities and ambitions of politicians like Walter Mondale, Jimmy Carter and Menachem Begin and who suggested to Bob Dole ways to soften the off-putting sharpness of his television image. Both Paloma Picasso and Vidal Sassoon felt they had something to learn from Sarnoff on how to project themselves and their products — Picasso her jewellery and fragrances, Sassoon his missionary propaganda for healthy hair.

Sarnoff, a graduate of Cornell University with a degree in public speaking and drama, and once a singer and actress whose range ran from opera to *The King and I* on Broadway, discovered her vocation in 1966. A friend asked her to address a group of lawyers on the skill of voice projection, and Sarnoff's "speech cosmetics" were born. Since then she has been telling top achievers around the world how to stand up straight — and deliver speeches (employing the five Ps: Poise, Phrasing, Pitch, Projection, and the most undervalued of all, the Pause), as well as how to handle hostile journalists and dress with dash.

To men she suggests they darken their eyebrows, remove their waistcoats, shave off their moustaches, and wear pastel shirts. Women who have faced the buffed and bejewelled Sarnoff across her



Lady in red: image-maker and author Dorothy Sarnoff

imposing desk, or behind a television camera in her mock-up studio, tend to rush out and invest in a choker of pearls, or at least sling a scarf across their shoulders for "interest".

Women (who now constitute 40 per cent of her client list) also tend to survey their own black clothes with dismay and realize that like Sarnoff, who looks like a cross between Lauren Bacall and Joan Rivers, they look more dynamic in red.

From her base in mid-town Manhattan Sarnoff presides over Speech Dynamics, a subsidiary of advertising agency Ogilvy and Mather International. The story goes that her transformation of two of David Ogilvy's executives from mumbling idiots into dynamic account-winners prompted him to order them back to buy her company

outright. Sarnoff's services are in such demand that much of her year is spent travelling the world straightening out the insecurities of bankers, professors and lawyers. A growing market is in grooming authors for book promotions.

If you cannot join one of her two-day seminars (\$850 per person) it is suggested you read one of her three best-selling books. The first, *Speech Can Change Your Life*, is in its 16th printing. The next, *Make The Most Of Your Best*, transformed in one instance a mousey CBS woman presenter into a dazzling violet-eyed (contact lenses replaced the spectacles which Sarnoff so dislikes) television performer. Her latest book, *Never Be Nervous Again*, came out last year in America. Sarnoff will be in London in June for its launch here practising what she preaches and rattling off to herself her private mantra, "I'm glad I'm here. I'm glad

you're here. I care about you. I know that I know."

She will also be practising and teaching the Sarnoff Squeeze, her foolproof tactic to subdue nervous flutters. It is an isometric technique she learnt from Yul Brynner while performing in *The King and I*. Brynner's method was to lunge at a wall and grunt. Sarnoff's version, breathing out as stomach muscles are contracted, is she feels, a more socially acceptable method which can be used in all sorts of tense-making situations. "Next time you're in the dentist's chair, contract and squeeze. Next time you ask your boss for a raise, squeeze."

Sarnoff says there is little she could teach Margaret Thatcher — "she has authority and she looks good". But she feels Neil Kinnock's occasional hoarseness could benefit from a breath massage technique that involves panting like a puppy and swallowing intermittently.

Her simplest image-improving advice is to sit up straight in your chair, hands clasped in front of you, forearms resting on the edge of the table — a bearing which apparently says: "I know that I know." Although she devotes a chapter to clothes tips ("In red you're ahead; Blue's for you; Brown is down" and so on) and make-up suggestions she says the best eye cosmetic is the sparkle achieved with direct eye contact. "Never try to look in to both eyes at the same time. It's uncomfortable and anyway you look cross-eyed," Sarnoff says. "Switch your gaze from one eye to the other. That signals warmth and sincerity... I noticed that Jack Kennedy knew all about that trick."

Liz Smith

## THE TIMES THE FRENCH GAME OF BOULES

The game of Boules, otherwise known as Pétanque, is suitable for all ages, demanding skill rather than physical prowess. It is perfect for playing on the beach or in the garden and will provide many hours of entertainment for all members of the family.

To play the game, two teams are needed of one to four people. The rules are straightforward, the object of the game being to throw the boules as near as possible to the wooden jack. Points are awarded to the winning team and a game continues until one team has gained thirteen points.

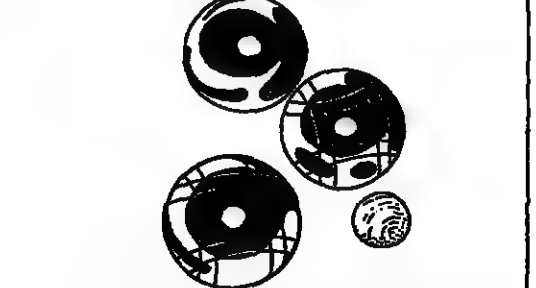
Two sets are available, both made in France: a two-player set comprising 6 boules (2 sets of 3) with 1 jack and a family set consisting of 8 boules (4 sets of 2) and 2 jacks. The boules are chrome plated and conveniently packed in a burgundy vinyl case complete with set of rules. Both sets are easy to carry, making them very suitable for the holidays.

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CONCERT  
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found in  
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half-hour  
LS/Berio  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Among the many distinguished composers who have come here with the London Sinfonietta, Luciano Berio and the piece he has written for the Sinfonietta, even when there is nothing very urgent on the programme.

So it was this time. The Sinfonietta was in the hall, the half-hour piece was played, and the Sinfonietta conducted the Sinfonietta.

More importantly, the piece never quite becomes the expected work, it promises to be, which is exactly a fault, because it is part of the nature of the music to be inconclusive, fuzzy and lacking in definition.

The solo instrument is a soprano, the tunes are not presented strongly, and there is constant play of echoes in the shadows in the two channels, and the other sounds around the far perimeter of a platform.

And Bonnici played the concert with quiet, steady confidence, and the orchestra's interpretations had an atmosphere of quiet, steady confidence, and the orchestra's interpretations had an atmosphere of quiet, steady confidence.

Included in rather continued, the original piece in the second was the 11-minute *Requiem* for the dead, which is a somewhat somber piece, but one which is a somewhat somber piece, but one which is a somewhat somber piece.

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PICTURES BY NICK ROGERS

# Flying a flag for jobs

**Armada 400** The city's Armada celebrations in July are intended to give a further impetus to its strategy of creating new job opportunities

The Ministry of Defence policeman at the Albert Gate of Plymouth's Devonport Royal Dockyard has seven photographs pinned to the notice-board in his gatehouse. They are of VIPs like Vice Admiral Sir John Webster, the naval base commander, whom the police are supposed to let through on the nod. Everyone else must identify themselves.

The newest photograph to join this gallery is a civilian, an engineer who started his working life as an apprentice at the Vickers shipyard in Barrow and is probably still a lot happier burrowing around in the bowels of a ship than sipping cocktails in the ward room.

Michael Leece, aged 41, is arguably the single most important man in Plymouth. He is managing director of the consortium Devonport Management Ltd (DML), which last year won a seven-year MoD contract to manage the dockyard.

Devonport, built nearly 300 years ago and sprawling across 332 acres and 2½ miles of waterfront, has always been the linchpin of employment in Plymouth. The decisions that

Mr Leece makes affect the whole city for good or ill. The economic and industrial arithmetic of Plymouth is disturbing. It has an unemployment rate in its travel-to-work area of more than 12 per cent, rising to more than double that in some parts of the inner-city.

The reason is not difficult to find. The naval dockyards have always been the major employer in the area and their demand for labour has been steadily dropping.

The city has been dangerously over-dependent on Devonport. Ship-building and marine engineering accounts for only two per cent of manufacturing industry nationally. In Plymouth the figure is nearly 50 per cent.

That dominance and the special nature of the work — the fact that the projects are defence-related, not civilian — has led to unusual structural problems in employment.

Because of the very high specifications demanded by the Navy, which will spend money on the other side of the world if necessary, to get the highest-standard materials, there have been in the past few years links between the dockyard and local suppliers.



Michael Leece, managing director of the consortium Devonport Management Ltd, which has won a seven-year contract to manage the dockyard

That means that Plymouth's small-business sector is smaller and weaker than in most other towns and cities of comparable size, and that the city has a relatively weak commercial and financial services sector. Look around Plymouth and you will see virtually no new office buildings. The demand is not there.

Such problems are clearly reflected in the city's occupational structure. It has a much lower proportion than normal of managers and professional people. Top managers can be attracted into the area on advantageous contracts, but tend not to be home grown.

All these problems are exacerbated by the city's location. It is seen by outsiders as

isolated from other parts of the country and from Europe.

Michael Leece's initial impact has been a painful one. The dockyard was handed over to commercial management a year ago to try to make it run more efficiently. It was originally hoped that the redundancy programme that was necessary would be spread gently over six or seven years, but an unexpected cutback in the amount of work that DML gets directly from the Royal Navy has meant the redundancies have had to be accelerated.

DML has already, in its first 12 months, made 2,000 people redundant and that will be followed by 1,000 more this year and 200 in each of the following two years. The

work-force will have shrunk from 11,200 when DML took over to fewer than 8,000 by the early-1990s.

That is the bad news. The good news is that Mr Leece hopes to increase significantly the dockyard's links with local industry.

He said: "The best way we can serve Plymouth as a community is to improve the amount of materials that we buy locally, through the establishment of feeder industries and feeder businesses."

The plans are still in the embryo stage. Mr Leece will not be drawn into suggesting which particular bits of Devonport work might, for instance, be sub-contracted, but executives are already out talking to local companies.

The yard spends about £50 million a year on materials, less than £2 million of that in Devon and Cornwall, but executives think that figure could be nearer £10 million a year by the time DML's first seven-year contract ends.

Creating a new industrial base for Plymouth is something politicians and city officials have been trying to do almost since the end of the Second World War, when the naval dockyard was even more dominant in the local economy than today.

There have been successes. Non-defence companies such as Wrigleys (the chewing-gum group) have been attracted to the city.

The number of such vic-

tories has been smaller than anybody would like, but local officials such as Nigel Pitt, a planner, put it the other way.

He would argue that, given its problems, Plymouth has actually been rather successful in attracting companies against the odds.

This year sees a further attempt in the city's continuing strategy of bringing in jobs. The key to Armada 400 is employment.

Said a city official: "We don't see the Armada celebrations as something the city is going to spend £400,000 on, in order to bring as many people as we can to Plymouth in July."

"Of course we want a lot of people to come, but we see it

as a much longer-term thing. We couldn't justify spending the money otherwise."

"If we weren't looking for jobs for the people of Plymouth we would not be doing Armada 400 — well, not on this scale anyway."

Plymouth certainly has to keep trying. Employment experts suggest that the population of working age in Plymouth will continue to grow (increasing by more than 6,000 between 1986 and 1991 according to one estimate) and more women are expected to be seeking jobs.

Unless the employment base can be widened as demand for jobs grows, unemployment will remain high.

Malcolm Brown



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## Anthony Cox looks at the city's plans for a memorable celebration

### A great history show sets sail

Planning for the Armada 400 celebrations started, says Roger Matthews, Plymouth's director of marketing and leisure, in 1988. "It was," says John Mills, chairman of the city's leisure services committee, "a put-up job."

"One councillor thought we should have commemorated the sailing of the convict ships to Australia, which took place 200 years ago. We pointed out that they were going and not coming and that was that."

The jokiness underlines the nature of the celebration of Armada 400 from July 1 to 28. "We're celebrating the event — not being jingoistic," says Mr Matthews. We are a city rich in history. There's always something coming up. We carefully look at the diary for dates to celebrate.

"Most people have heard of the Armada and the story of Sir Francis Drake finishing his game of bowls on the Hoe. Now if we didn't capitalize on that to promote Plymouth we would be negligent."

The serious side to Armada 400 can be summed up in one word: jobs. "The key to all our promotional efforts is employment," says Mr Matthews.

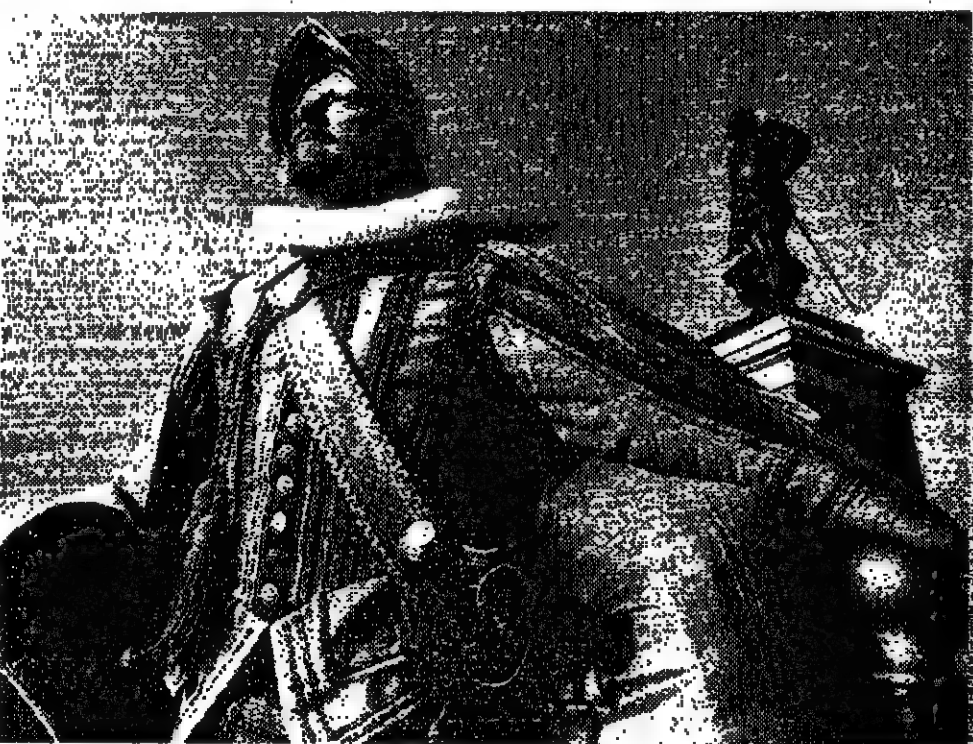
"It's really about creating the idea of Plymouth as a nice place to visit, a place where things happen."

"We are trying to raise the profile of the city in the minds of people who might want to come and spend money. Whether they would want to come and spend money as tourists or by putting up factories to employ people, we're trying to influence them to know more about Plymouth, to come here and to invest."

Planning for Armada 400 began about 18 months ago. The initiative came from the city's leisure services committee and then responsibility moved to the special events committee.

Janet Poynter, the city's entertainment officer, is in day-to-day charge and is co-ordinating all of the Armada events throughout Devon. "She's the boss," says Mr Mills.

Part of the thinking behind Armada 400 is an attempt to break what Mr Mills refers to



Drake — as depicted by actor Bob Crane — in front of the seaman's statue on Plymouth Hoe

as "the London-Stratford-Edinburgh triangle".

Mr Matthews explains: "Americans tend to go to London and then to places they have heard of. Increasingly they are going to York because it has been quite heavily promoted. We're trying to entice more to come down here. Plymouth is the biggest city in the West Country. We're right in the middle of a very important holiday area. Tourism to Devon in the last five years has actually gone down, but tourism to Plymouth has gone up."

Mr Mills points out that Plymouth is not "being too parochial. We are thinking about the county as well as the city. Everyone's going to benefit." And, as Mr Matthews

opening ceremony on the Hoe at 7 pm on July 1, and runs through the commemorative service in St Andrew's Church (July 3), combined services week (July 5-9), the re-enactment of Drake's legendary game of bowls (July 19), the "modern Armada" mock battle in Plymouth Sound (July 19), the finish of the Armada Cup yacht race (July 20, 21, 22), the official visit by the Queen and Prince Philip (July 21-22), the costumed ball (July 23), the banquet (July 24), a supper and auction (July 27) and "Armada 400 — The Grand Finale" on the Hoe (July 28).

She adds: "We've contacted all the Plymouths throughout the world. We've found 41 so far and new ones turn up every week. New Zealand is sending quite a strong force — 47 of them are coming."

What about the Spaniards? "Oh, they're coming as well," says Mr Mills. "We're having the yacht race with them, from San Sebastian to Plymouth, and civic parties are involved in that. We've heard it rumoured that the King and Queen of Spain might be coming."

Plymouth has high hopes for the success of Armada 400. "Earlier this year, we had an Armada exhibition at the city museum and we estimated 20,000 people would come. In fact, we had 85,000 through the door," says Mr Mills, a former Lord Mayor of Plymouth.

Mr Matthews adds: "We'll quickly be told by the city's hoteliers whether July was any good or not. The signs are looking very good. We are cautiously optimistic."

The city is promoting an extensive range of souvenirs. Mr Mills says: "We've everything from a plastic duck upwards. We have to cater for every taste."

The most tasteful item is undoubtedly an "official" medal, which is available in gold, silver or bronze, the latter costing just £2.95.

And a tasty item is due from the local Cornish brewery which is bottling a special commemorative Armada Ale. "Our last celebration," says Mr Matthews, "was the 400th anniversary, in 1977, of Drake's circumnavigation of the globe."

"What next? We keep racking our brains. Our next celebration is going to be the

### Next the Tall Ships Race in 1990

Tall Ships Race, which we will be hosting in 1990. Then, of course, we've got Drake's death in '95...

Plymouth's Armada celebrations will ripple across England on July 19 — the day in 1588 that the Spanish fleet was first sighted off The Lizard — when a chain of signal beacons will be lit as part of the "Fire Over England" commemoration of the Elizabethan early-warning system.

Armada 400 inquiries should be addressed to City of Plymouth Marketing Bureau, St Andrew's Court, 12 St Andrews Street, Plymouth, PL1 2AH; tel: 0752-662594.

PLYMOUTH—THE PRIDE OF ENGLAND

Armada 400


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Continued on page 25

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This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN



**BOOKING KEY**  
 \* Seats available  
 \* Returns only  
 (D) Access for disabled

## THEATRE

**LONDON**

★ **BACK WITH A VENGEANCE:** Dame Edna Everage back again joshing the possums. Strand Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 2660). Tue: Charming Cross, Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 8-11pm, mat Sat 2.30-5.30pm, £5-20-15. (D)

★ **THE BROWNING VERSION/HARLEQUINADE:** Rattigan double bill, story cast led by Dorothy Vernon and Paul Eddington. Last week. Royal Theatre, Portland Street WC2 (01-831 0660). Tue: Holborn, Mon-Sat 10.15pm, mat Sat 5-5.15pm and Sat 5-7.15pm, £7-50-15. (D)

★ **CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF:** Lindsay Duncan and Ian Chairolson in Tennessee Williams's drama of sexual frustration and inhibition in the Deep South. With Eric Porter as Big Daddy. National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank SE1 (01-928 2252). Tue: Waterloo, Tonight 7.45pm, £5.50-£13.

★ **THE COMMON PURSUIT:** Simon Gray plays the fortunes of underdog friends; splendid cast led by Rik Mayall, John Sessions, Stephen Fry, John Gordon Sinclair. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-836 2294). Tue: Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Thurs 8-10.15pm, Fri and Sat 8.45-11pm, mat Fri and Sat 2-5.15pm, £5-14.50.

★ **DANGEROUS OBSESSION:** Sutherland-averages revenge thriller. Politically smiling Dinsdale Landon drags Jeremy Bulloch and Hilary Tindall over the coals. Fortune Theatre, Russell Street WC2 (01-836 2238). Tue: Covent Garden, Mon-Fri 8-10.05pm, Sat 8.30-10.35pm, mat Wed 3-5.05pm and Sat 3-5.30pm, £5-13.50.

★ **BEAST VIRTUE:** Attractive revival of Noel Coward 1926 with Jane How scolding her teenage husband's frightful county toils. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road WC2 (01-378 6107). Tue: Leicester Square, Mon-Fri 8-10.15pm, Sat 8-10.30pm, mat Tues 3-5.15pm and Sat 3-7.15pm, £7.50-£12.50.

★ **A FAMILY AFFAIR:** Splendid Cheek by Jowl in town again with Ostrovsky's satire on the Russian merchant class of 1849. Donmar Warehouse, 41 Earlham Street WC2 (01-378 6565). Tue: Covent Garden/Leicester Square. Preview tonight 7.30-10.15pm. Opens tomorrow, 7.30-10.15pm, then Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, mat Tues 3-5.15pm and Sat 3-5.45pm. Tonight 2 tickets for the price of 1. From tomorrow, £5-23.

★ **GOING WEST:** Emer Gillespie and Paul McCleary leave New York bound for California in new Tony Crazie play. Soho Play, 16 Riding House Street W1 (01-436 9550). Tue: Oxford Circus. Preview tonight 7.30-10.15pm, mat Wed 3-5.30pm, then Mon-Sat 8pm, £2.75-£4.50.

★ **THE MIRACLE WORKER:** William Gibson's celebrated play showing how blind young Helen Keller learnt to communicate with Hildegarde Neil, Daryl Bock, Ian Lavender. Last week. Westminster Theatre, Victoria Street SW1 (01-834 0293). Tue: Victoria. Tues-Sat 7.45-10.15pm, mat Wed and Thurs 2.30-5pm, and Sat 3-5.30pm, £5.50-£12.50.

★ **NANA:** Shared Experience's vigorous production of Zola's tale of decadent abandon in fin de siècle Paris. Marmalade Theatre, Puddle Dock EC4 (01-236 5568). Tue: Blackfriars, Mon-Fri 7.30-9.30pm, Sat 8-10pm, mat Wed 3pm-5pm and Sat 4.30-6.30pm, £5-£10.50.

**LONG RUNNERS:** ★ Beyond Repression: Double Queens Theatre (01-734 1165). ★ The Business of Murder: Mayfair Theatre (01-629 3036). ★ Cats: New London Theatre (01-405 0072, cc 01-404 4079). ★ Chess: Prince Edward Theatre (01-734 9917). ★ Follies: Shaftesbury Theatre (01-378 5395). ★ 42nd Street: Drury Lane Theatre (01-836 8109/0). ★ Kiss Me Kate: Savoy Theatre (01-836 8888). ★ Las Vegas: Dancergues: Ambassadors Theatre (01-836 8111, cc 01-836 1171). ★ Me and My Girl: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7913/4). ★ Les Miserables: Palace Theatre (01-434 0505). ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-838 1443). ★ Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-839 2244). ★ Run For Your Wife: Criterion Theatre (01-930 3216). ★ Serious Moon: Wyndham's Theatre (01-838 3028). ★ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (01-828 8665). ★ And Then There Were Monks: Duke of York's Theatre (01-836 5122).

## OUT OF TOWN

**BURLEY:** ★ *Walking in Darkness* New play by Elizabeth (Assam) Gordon. Bond begins with a badger found on a housing estate. Start of a North-East tour. Burnley Mechanics, Manchester Road (0282 30065). 7.30pm, £2.50.

**LEEDS:** ★ *Jane Eyre*: Wendy Nottingham and David Gillman in intriguing new adaptation by Fay Weldon. Playhouse, Calverly Street (0532 442111). Mon & Tues 8pm, Wed-Sat 7.30pm, £4.50-28.

**LUTON:** ★ *The Aspern Papers*: Empty Space Company's excellent adaptation of the Henry James tale of deceit in Venice. Library Theatre, St George Square (0582 21628). Tonight 8pm, £3.50.

## FILMS

★ **Also on national release**

★ **Advance booking possible**

★ **BABETTE'S FEAST (U):** One of Karen Blixen's lighter tales, immaculately transferred to the screen by a fellow Dane, Gabriel Axel. With Stephanie Sigman as a famous Parisian chef who tests her skills on an austere religious community (105 min). Chelsea (01-351 3742). Progs 2.10, 4.20, 6.35, 8.50.

★ **BEYOND REPRESSION (U):** A comedy of manners set in a 19th-century English country house. Progs 2.10, 4.20, 6.35, 8.50.

★ **THE BELIEVERS (15):** Mysterious deaths and sacrifices take place when Cal (Martin Sheen) and his son Chris move to New York and become involved with a strange religious cult (113 min). Leicester Square Theatre (01-830 5252). Progs 2.10, 4.20, 6.35, 8.50.

★ **BROADCAST NEWS (15):** Sick drama about network TV journalism. James L Brooks' *Tarzan of Endor* meets William Hurt, Albert Brooks, Holly Hunter as the trio caught in a jumble of professional and romantic problems (112 min). Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5095). Progs 2.20, 4.30, 6.40, 8.50.

★ **COBRA VERDE (15):** A pale copy of Werner Herzog's past exercises in high adventure and visionary dreams: with Klaus Kinski as a disgruntled South American rancher who takes his revenge through banditry (90 min). Gate Notting Hill (01-221 0220). Progs 2.30, 4.30, 6.40, 8.50.

★ **FATAL ATTRACTION (18):** A thriller on Michael Douglas, his wife (Anne Archer) and family. Adrian Lyne directs this unsettling thriller (119 min). Cannon Oxford Street (01-378 2636). Progs 2.15, 4.15, 6.15, 8.15.

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# Singing from the soul



Whitney Houston (left) made history last week when "Where Do Broken Hearts Go" became her seventh consecutive single to reach No.1 in the US. According to the chart analyst, Alan Jones, this achievement surpassed the old record of six consecutive No.1s established by the Beatles in 1966 and equaled by the Bee Gees in 1979. Her album *Whitney Houston*, which has sold 14 million copies, is reputed to be the best-selling debut of all time by a solo artist. When she last played Britain in the autumn of 1986, she demonstrated the fluency and technical prowess that one would expect from the heir to the Cissy Houston-Dionne Warwick gospel and soul singing dynasty. But a recurring complaint, particularly with regard to her follow-up album, *Whitney* (10 million sold), has been that she lacks emotional depth. "I do sing from my soul", she protested in a recent interview. "I had a good childhood, no tragedies. And I can only sing from my own life experience." Perhaps this happy background is the revolutionary ingredient that accounts for her unprecedented success. Whitney Houston plays tonight, tomorrow, Saturday, Sunday and Monday at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (021 780 4133) 7.30pm, £13.50-£15, then at Wembley Arena (01-902 1234) on May 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16. David Sinclair

## CONCERTS

**LUNCHTIME**

★ **HEUTE IST DER SIEGESTAG:** This is the title of a cantata performed by the Locomotiv Ensemble, which quickly follow with a recorder sonata by Liszt. St Anne and St Agnes's, Gresham School, London EC2 (01-373 5565). 1.10-1.50pm, free.

## EVENING

★ **ALL STRAUSS:** The Philharmonia Orchestra is conducted by Andrew Davis in Richard Strauss's *Four Last Songs* (Alison Hargan, soprano) and *Symphonic Fragments from Die Liebe der Danae*. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-828 8191, cc 01-828 8800). 7.45pm, £4-28.

★ **FROM HATFIELD:** The Hatfield Philharmonic Chorus joins with the Neman Orchestra to perform Parry's *Mass for St. Agnes*, Elia's *Pastoral* and Elgar's *Three Studies in Folk Song* under the baton of Michael Koblewsky. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-828 8191, cc 01-828 8800). 7.45pm, £4-28.

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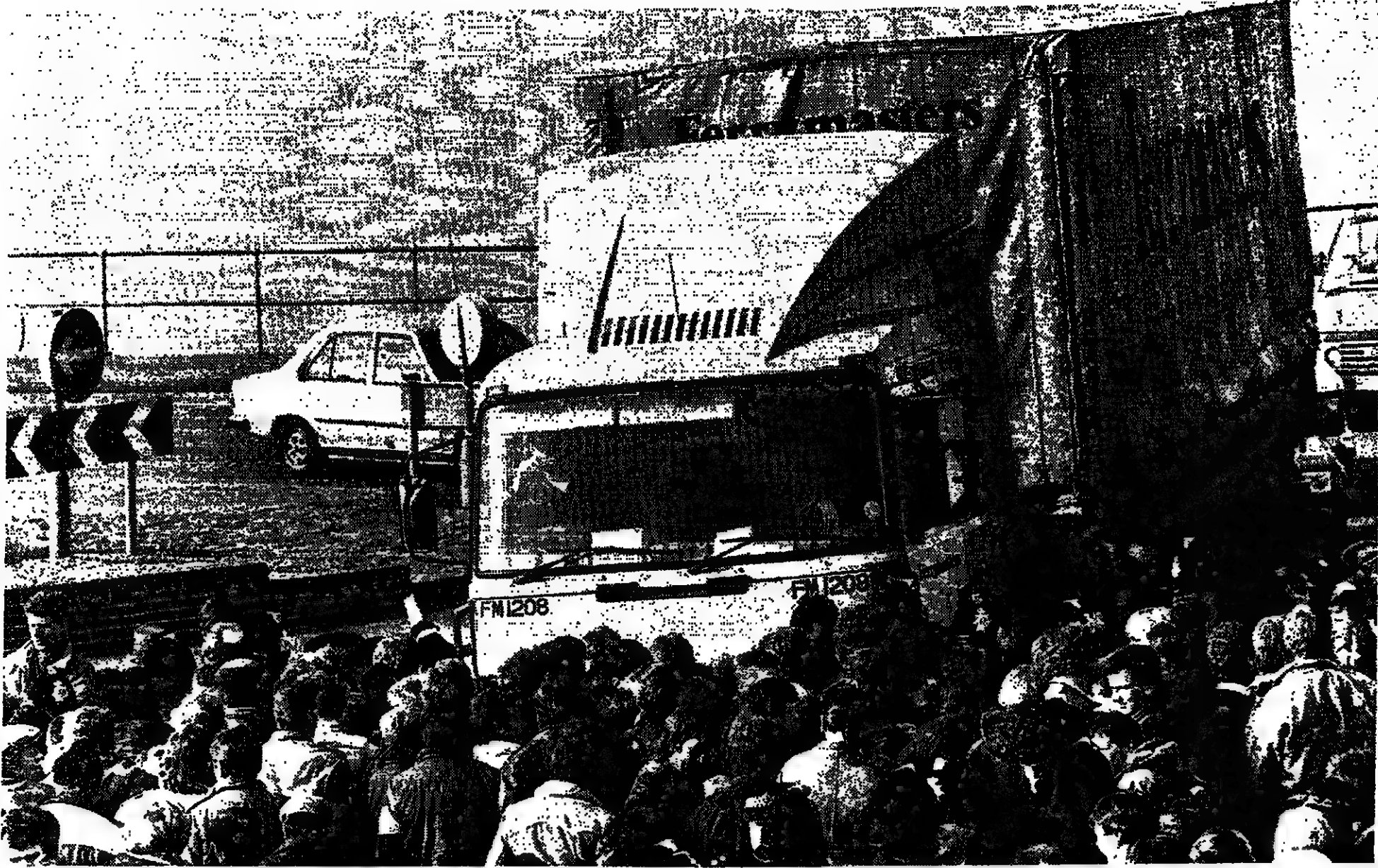
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# Four arrested as pickets clash with police



Police trying to move back seamen blocking the entrance to the port at Dover to a lorry bound for the Continent. Four people were arrested in yesterday's picket-line clashes.

Continued from page 1

possession of an offensive weapon.

During the incidents, police reinforcements, drafted in from other parts of Kent and held in reserve elsewhere in Dover until the trouble flared, moved in to swell the police presence to about 150 and eventually succeeded in clearing the road.

Mr McCluskey later made a brief appearance at the port entrance and appealed to strikers to keep calm. "Our argument is with P&O, not the police," he told them.

The pickets succeeded in stopping sailings on Dover-Calais service operated by the two British-crewed Sealink Ferries. Insufficient NUS members reported for work to make services possible.

However, the two French-crewed Sealink Ferries were able to cope with the day's light traffic at Dover and only short delays were reported. British crews on two ferries on the Folkestone-Boulogne run ignored NUS pickets.

Local NUS officials were confident that no British Sealink ships would sail out of Dover overnight. Although they condemned the earlier clash with police, Dover NUS port committee member Mr John Wood said there was mounting frustration among the sacked seamen.

"These men and women are not militants. A lot of them are petty officers with 15 or 20 years' service," he said.

"But they have been angered by a company intent on putting profit before safety."

Mr Eric Nevin, general secretary of the National Union of Marine, Aviation and Shipping Transport Off-

cers, said his members had been instructed not to sail with non-unionised and under-qualified seamen. Any dismissals would be met with immediate court action.

Two nautical surveyors from the Department of Transport will carry out checks on the five ferries today. The surveyors will also study the qualifications of crews as part of the checks, requested by the company last week.

Mr Graeme Dunlop, managing director of P&O European Ferries, said: "These ships have been out of service for three months and none of the crews have worked for three months."

"Whilst the ships have been maintained throughout this period, we think it is a sensible and prudent measure to have a complete independent check of equipment, systems and drills."

The company formally dismissed the 720 NUS members, who have refused to take up the contracts reflecting the new terms and conditions set out in the Red Book, when it yesterday sent them their P45s.

Labour's front bench entered the P&O dispute by calling for an independent inquiry and claiming the company's tactics raised "serious doubts about ferry safety".

In a statement released by Mr Bob Hughes, the Shadow Transport Secretary, and Mr Michael Meacher, Shadow Employment Secretary, it said: "It is incredible that only 13 months after the Zeebrugge disaster, P&O should be locked in a bitter struggle to impose reduced manning levels on cross-channel ferry traffic."

## Families split by the Dover dispute

By Boris Johnson

Hundreds of men throughout Dover had their notices of dismissal hand-delivered yesterday morning, as P&O hired a firm of dispatch riders to distribute the P45 tax forms and Seaman's Discharge Books that mark severance with the company. It was the final fulfilment of a threat that has been issued and withdrawn four times.

Mr Michael Cotter, aged 39, formerly an able seaman on the *Pride of Calais*, was woken at 5.15 am to receive the blue discharge book that he has used for 13 years of service on the ferries.

"I have been in the crowd of pickets at the Eastern Dock," he said. "I haven't got a clue what I am going to do next, but I have got plenty of time to think about it."

The division between the 800 who have lost their jobs by

staying out on strike and those who have decided to go back to work can be felt just in the community at large. In Dover, even individual families have been torn apart.

The three Holley brothers all work on the ferries. But yesterday Able Seaman Alan Holley was on the picket lines after learning that his brother Martin, a chief cook, was one of about 30 strike-breakers preparing to bring the ferries back from Rotterdam.

"I will have no more to do with him. I hope that he does not come back through this picket line because I will just ignore him," he said.

The third brother, Philip, has signed the contract to get medical severance from P&O because he has a bad back. He said: "I am disgusted with my eldest brother. I doubt whether I shall have much to do with him at all."

## Veteran of miners' strike in Dover front line

Continued from page 1

headlights on and its horn blaring, drove at speed through the picket line, scattering police and demonstrators.

From his home in Deal, near Dover, Mr French said later that he had had the loudhailer for many years and had used it throughout the miners' strike. He said he had not worked since being dismissed by the coal board for occupying Betteshanger col-

liery in Kent and had spent the past year working for the Justice for Mineworkers' campaign throughout Britain.

"Putting me in prison did not make one bit of difference to the way I feel," said Mr French, who was released early last year after spending a little more than two years in jail.

Mr French, who was sentenced on appeal to four years in prison for causing grievous bodily harm to a police officer,



A picket tries to persuade a lorry driver to back the strike by not entering the port (Photographs: Dennis McNeelance).

## Commons sketch Young cadets and a curious unity

Mr Harry Greenway was up again. Like Mr Billy Whizz, whose peculiar crinkly hairstyle his own seems to mirror, Mr Greenway is always on his feet. He wished to praise the Cadets scheme offered by the Army. Did it not encourage comradeship, discipline, adventure, training in leadership? With a swirl of his necktie, which now seems to be lengthening at such a rate that it has recently become a potential hazard to pedestrians, he sat back down again.

The Prime Minister's own Cadets scheme seems to encourage one or two of these qualities, but never all four together. Her adventurous cadets tend not to be disciplined, her good leaders tend not to be comradely, and so on. Her most junior cadets seem to have specialised in only one subject—discipline—jettisoning all the others as likely to cause offence.

Mr Matthew Carrington (Cons, Fulham) is one of those new young cadets who can be relied upon to leap to his feet and yell out an appropriate battle-cry whenever he is called on to do so. He looks a bit like an Action Man gone to seed, and speaks in a manner suggesting that the string on his back has just been pulled and released. He wished to convey to the Prime Minister "how delighted the nurses are with their recent pay award". He assured her that "morale has greatly improved". And with that the walking, talking cadet stepped back into his box, ready to be brought out again on another rainy day.

Mr Neil Kinnock, who is still slogging his way through an alternative Leadership training scheme, reminded the Prime Minister that he had asked her two weeks ago whether she would amend the Housing Benefit. Then she had said no. Would she now give the same answer?

"We are spending FAR more in real terms..." The Prime Minister addresses the Leader of the Opposition as if he were not just a cadet, but a cadet mouse. The sooner you get back on that training wheel, the better, her tone seems to imply. Yesterday, the cadet mouse spoke to the Prime Minister as if she were a particularly naughty child from a Cautious Tale by Mr Hilaire Belloc, a view

shared, no doubt, by many of his fellow cadets.

Hilda told such dreadful lies.

It made Tam gasp and stretch his eyes.

"She knows she's been wrong, she knows she's done wrong," said Mr Kinnock. "Why doesn't she just get on with it?" He then said that though two weeks might be a short time in politics, it was a long time for those without Housing Benefit. Two weeks a short time in politics indeed! How long has it been since Mr Kinnock sat through Questions to the Secretary of State for Wales? Two weeks in politics is closer to five years in normal life, and those five years would be exclusive of Christmas or birthdays.

The Prime Minister emitted a list of more, more resources, more cash in real terms, more money spent on Social Services, more on the Health Service, and so on. Having finished one list, she started on another: a Labour administration would be forced to cut health spending, cut nurses, cut doctors, cut and so on. Barely had she finished speaking before one of her very own cuts rose to speak. Mr Leon Brittan wanted her to agree with him that "those who want to go to work have a right to do so", a plea which seemed to come straight from the heart.

It was left to a senior cadet to introduce a titter to the parade ground. Colonel Stokes, resolutely moustachioed and military both in background and bearing, jumped to attention from his seat at the back and praised the "remarkable speech" as the formation of the Radical Society by the Right Honourable Member for Chingford. He agreed with Mr Norman Tebbit when he had praised "the part the so-called working-class had played in supporting government policies" but he wished the Prime Minister to confirm that there was still a place in the party "for the nobility, the gentry and the middle-classes".

There was a sound of laughter like gunfire. Mr Stokes—always aware of the effect he is creating—led the laughter, and both Mr Kinnock and Mrs Thatcher followed suit, in their very first display of unity in the present Parliament.

Craig Brown

## Blueprint for ITV

Continued from page 1

galvanize public and Parliamentary opinion in support of IBA proposals by the time a Bill affecting television is introduced late in 1989.

A full-scale public consultation exercise is to be organized in the IBA so that viewers can say what they think in advance of broadcasting legislation.

The key points and recommendations in the IBA policy statement include:

● A "preferred option" of awarding ITV contracts according to judgments made by the IBA about ability to

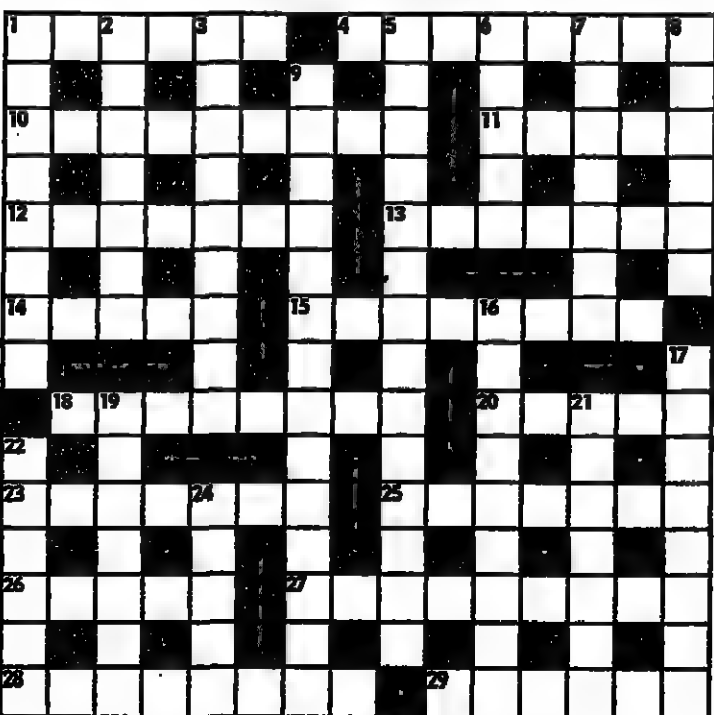
fulfil programme requirements. If competitive tendering has to be applied, it suggests a two-stage process, with the IBA setting a price for a franchise, and then awarding it according to the best programme proposals.

● Limiting the size of individual shareholdings in ITV companies.

● Allowing people without television staff or programme-making facilities to bid for ITV franchises.

● Allowing all ITV companies to have equal opportunity to offer programmes for network screening.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,654



- ACROSS**
- Vessel is a mile in length (6).
  - One in a position to make a come-back? (8).
  - Wine from Port of Spain? (9).
  - A pound short in the balance (5).
  - Sort of chips you get in such an industrial valley? (7).
  - Notice record prize draw that is not wanted? (7).
  - Matron perhaps getting medicine right (5).
  - Light car for railwaymen? (8).
  - Galleries between Dover and Ashford (8).
  - Cattle hard to find in Wales (5).
  - Wooster gives suit to Jeeves (7).
  - She was entitled to succeed in the play (7).
  - Nonsensical fellow with a name to memorise (5).
  - Generally at home with short-hand (2,7).
  - Training horses in period costume? No, just the opposite (8).
  - Settler holding royal petition (6).
- DOWN**
- Squash—several games per team (3,5).
  - Game of wits (7).
  - The five-hundred pounds enigma—a prickly one? (9).
  - An educational facility for the Penzance band? (8-6).
  - Island lives under historical measure (5).
  - Board to a university in dramatic scene (7).
  - Discussion would be needed first for this girl to become housekeeper (6).
  - Rural revels—Turkey-trotting, for example (7,7).
  - One of several supporters in rail hold-up (9).
  - Huntsman has damage to curse about (8).
  - Zealously copy one with feathers behind (7).
  - Useful service from the little woman, about a point up (7).
  - Climbed, then peeled off (6).
  - Sign in front of take-away (5).

### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

**EMPTION**

- A nuclear particle
- The act of buying
- Blackmail for something other than money

**KREISTLE**

- To disgust
- A Viennese chocolate bun
- A minor Aztec god

**QIVUIT**

- A type of legal plea
- Cool
- A Viennese chocolate bun

**DRACONIC**

- Terse and short
- Inhumanly severe
- Dragonish

Answers on page 22, column 1

### Solution to Puzzle No 17,653

DO	TH	E	T	R	I	C	K	I	D	E	A
A	S	S	U	A	E	M					
W	R	I	T	E	N	O	F	O	S	S	A
N	L	A	I	E	B	P	T				
S	T	A	N	D	R	E	P	A	C	E	
P	H	I	L	A	N	D	E	R	I	N	G
A	S	G	A	T	E	L	H	I			
C	Y	C	L	E	R	E	A	D	D	R	E
C	O	N	S	T	A	B	I	A	R	I	E
H	O	G	S	T	M	E	B	O	R	E	
A	P	E	A	B	A	T	I	L	E	D	
E	N	I	G	H	E	N	T	A	I	O	R
T	O	T	E	A	D	V	E	N	T	U	R

Concise crossword, page 11

### WEATHER

North and west Scotland will be dry and bright with some sunshine. Northern Ireland will be mostly dry with some sunshine in the west. Southern and eastern Scotland, England and Wales will be rather cloudy with some bright spells in south-west England. Most places will be dry but showers are possible, particularly in eastern regions. Easterly winds will keep temperatures below normal. Outlook: northern and western areas mainly dry with some showers in the east.

#### ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	18-24	W	1-3	
Athens	18-24	W	1-3	
Bombay	28-34	W	1-3	
Buenos Aires	18-24	W	1-3	
Calcutta	28-34	W	1-3	
Cairo	28-34	W	1-3	
Colon	28-34	W	1-3	
Hong Kong	28-34	W	1-3	
London	18-24	W	1-3	
Lyons	18-24	W	1-3	
Madrid	18-24	W	1-3	
Moscow	18-24	W	1-3	
Paris	18-24	W	1-3	
Rangoon	28-34	W	1-3	
Shanghai	28-34	W	1-3	
Singapore	28-34	W	1-3	
Tokyo	28-34	W	1-3	
Yokohama	28-34	W	1-3	

#### AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Cardiff	18-24	W	1-3	
Edinburgh	18-24	W	1-3	
Glasgow	18-24	W	1-3	
London	18-24	W	1-3	
Manchester	18-24	W	1-3	
Newcastle	18-24	W	1-3	
Nottingham	18-24	W	1-3	
Sheffield	18-24	W	1-3	
Sunderland	18-24	W	1-3	
Wolverhampton	18-24	W	1-3	

#### HIGH TIDES

Location	Time	Height
London Bridge	11:22	9.8
Avonmouth	11:22	9.8
Cardiff	11:22	9.8
Dover	11:22	9.8
Glasgow	11:22	9.8
Harwich	11:22	9.8
London	11:22	9.8
Lyons	11:22	9.8
Madrid	11:22	9.8
Moscow	11:22	9.8
Paris	11:22	9.8
Rangoon	11:22	9.8
Shanghai	11:22	9.8
Singapore	11:22	9.8
Tokyo	11:22	9.8
Yokohama	11:22	9.8

#### THE POUND

Country	Rate
Australia	2.55
Belgium	36.36
Canada	2.26
Denmark	136.48
France	6.55
Germany	1.36
Italy	1.36
Japan	243.76
Netherlands	2.20
Portugal	204.80
Spain	166.67
Sweden	11.43
Switzerland	2.05
USA	1.55
Yugoslavia	22.22

Information supplied by London Weather Centre

### AM



#### LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8m to 6pm, 18C (64F); min 6pm to 6am, 10C (50F). Wind: 6m to 6pm, 4-6 m.p.h. (SE); 6pm to 6am, 4-6 m.p.h. (SE). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.3in. Forecast: 6m to 6pm, 10-17C. Wind: 6m to 6pm, 4-6 m.p.h. (SE). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.3in.

#### MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 8m to 6pm, 12C (54F); min 6pm to 6am, 10C (50F). Wind: 6m to 6pm, 4-6 m.p.h. (SE); 6pm to 6am, 4-6 m.p.h. (SE). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.3in. Forecast: 6m to 6pm, 10-17C. Wind: 6m to 6pm, 4-6 m.p.h. (SE). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.3in.

#### HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Leuchars, Fife, 15C (59F). Lowest night temp: Fort Belknap, Alaska, -25C (-13F). Highest rain: Cape Wrath, Highland, 13.2in. Lowest snow: Fort Belknap, Alaska, 25in.

#### LIGHTING-UP TIME

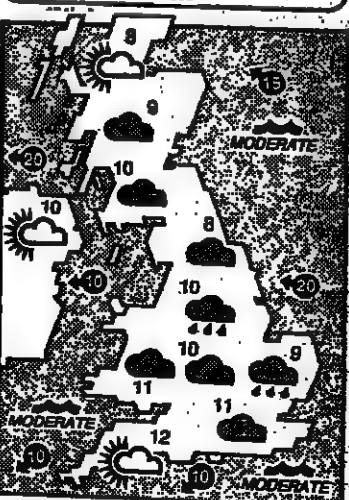
London 5.48 pm to 5.08 am  
Edinburgh 5.57 pm to 5.18 am  
Glasgow 5.57 pm to 5.18 am  
Manchester 5.57 pm to 5.18 am  
Newcastle 5.57 pm to 5.18 am  
Nottingham 5.57 pm to 5.18 am  
Sheffield 5.57 pm to 5.18 am  
Sunderland 5.57 pm to 5.18 am  
Wolverhampton 5.57 pm to 5.18 am

#### YESTERDAY

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Belfast	11-15	W	1-3	
Birmingham	11-15	W	1-3	
Cardiff	11-15	W	1-3	
Edinburgh	11-15	W	1-3	
Glasgow	11-15	W	1-3	
London	11-15	W	1-3	
Manchester	11-15	W	1-3	
Newcastle	11-15	W	1-3	
Nottingham	11-15	W	1-3	
Sheffield	11-15	W	1-3	
Sunderland	11-15	W	1-3	
Wolverhampton	11-15	W	1-3	

Information supplied by London Weather Centre

### PM



#### LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8m to 6pm, 18C (64F); min 6pm to 6am, 10C (50F). Wind: 6m to 6pm, 4-6 m.p.h. (SE); 6pm to 6am, 4-6 m.p.h. (SE). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.3in. Forecast: 6m to 6pm, 10-17C. Wind: 6m to 6pm, 4-6 m.p.h. (SE). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.3in.

#### MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 8m to 6pm, 12C (54F); min 6pm to 6am, 10C (50F). Wind: 6m to 6pm, 4-6 m.p.h. (SE); 6pm to 6am, 4-6 m.p.h. (SE). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.3in. Forecast: 6m to 6pm, 10-17C. Wind: 6m to 6pm, 4-6 m.p.h. (SE). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.3in.

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Monday: Highest day temp: Leuchars, Fife, 15C (59F). Lowest night temp: Fort Belknap, Alaska, -25C (-13F). Highest rain: Cape Wrath, Highland, 13.2in. Lowest snow: Fort Belknap, Alaska, 25in.

#### LIGHTING-UP TIME

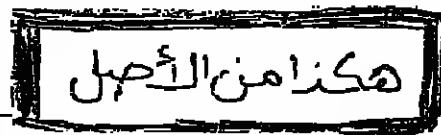
London 5.48 pm to 5.08 am  
Edinburgh 5.57 pm to 5.18 am  
Glasgow 5.57 pm to 5.18 am  
Manchester 5.57 pm to 5.18 am  
Newcastle 5.57 pm to 5.18 am  
Nottingham 5.57 pm to 5.18 am  
Sheffield 5.57 pm to 5.18 am  
Sunderland 5.57 pm to 5.18 am  
Wolverhampton 5.57 pm to 5.18 am

#### YESTERDAY

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Belfast	11-15	W	1-3	
Birmingham	11-15	W	1-3	
Cardiff	11-15	W	1-3	
Edinburgh	11-15	W	1-3	
Glasgow	11-15	W	1-3	
London	11-15	W	1-3	
Manchester	11-15	W	1-3	
Newcastle	11-15	W	1-3	
Nottingham	11-15	W	1-3	
Sheffield	11-15	W	1-3	
Sunderland	11-15	W	1-3	
Wolverhampton	11-15	W	1-3	

Information supplied by London Weather Centre

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 17 per cent of the competitors in the 1988 Glasgow regional final of The Times Collins Crossword Championship.









## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Victory for Borrie in battle with Lautro

Insurance salesmen are to be forced to tell clients exactly how much commission they are earning from a sale. This victory for Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, over the determination of Lautro, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organization, to restrict information about commissions, is tempered by the fact that the new "hard disclosure" will not be brought in until January 1, 1990.

Sir Gordon criticized the original proposal that would have allowed insurance and unit trust salesmen to tell clients merely that they were abiding by the industry agreement on commissions — soft disclosure — rather than having to tell them in blunt terms exactly what that commission amounted to — hard disclosure.

## BHP accepts Rheem offer

Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP) said it had accepted a takeover bid of Aus\$2.65 (£1.07) a share from SA Brewing Holdings for its remaining 62.5% million shares in Rheem Australia, a light engineer. This follows its sale last month of 29.6 million Rheem shares and 6.95 million options to the Adelaide-based company.

## Logica buys Jardine stake

Logica, the computer software group, is buying out Jardine Matheson's 50 per cent interest in its Far Eastern joint venture, Jardine Logica, for an undisclosed sum. The venture established in 1983, will keep its headquarters in Hong Kong and will be renamed Logica Systems, a wholly owned subsidiary of Logica.

## Growth at Five Oaks

Five Oaks Investments, the property developer, is promising at least a maintained final dividend of 1p after half-year pre-tax profits for the six months to end-December, up 46 per cent to £509,000.

The company made a maiden payment for the last financial year but is not paying an interim dividend. It says projects are progressing well and the property market has remained firm, with strong rental growth in central London which will enhance the value of its latest acquisitions in Covent Garden.

## S&amp;R profits stand still

Profits at Scott & Robertson, the Scottish packaging company, were almost unchanged in the year to end-December at £1.62 million (£1.68 million), on turnover up from £26 million to £32.5 million. It had forecast less than £1.5 million profits when it bought Visqueen from ICI in December. The total dividend was 4p (3.5p).

## Lee on board at Hazlewood

Mr Francis Lee, the former Manchester City and England footballer, is joining the board of Hazlewood Foods as a non-executive director. Mr Lee, who made some 700 appearances in the Football League, sold his FFI Lee paper tissues business to Hazlewood in 1981 for more than £8 million, and continued to run it as a subsidiary.

## Win £50,000 in unit trusts

Our Stockwatcher competition, with £50,000 worth of unit trusts from Equitable Life as prizes, is now in its second week.

Equitable Life has an excellent reputation and a long history of sound investment and good returns. You can win £1,000 worth of its recommended unit trusts each week.

Playing Stockwatcher is simple. It involves making a single telephone call each day, Monday to Friday.

You can play right now (or at any time, day or night) by picking up your telephone and calling 0898-141-400, the Stockwatcher competition number.

You will hear the voice of a well-known personality in business, finance or industry. The voice will make a brief statement

which will provide a further clue to its identity.

Each day, when you call 0898-141-400, you will hear a different voice, five each week. The recording of the day's personality will change at 4pm each day.

To help you identify all the voices, photographic clues to the five personalities will appear in *The Times* on Saturday, together with an entry coupon.

The first correct entry opened after the closing date will win the £1,000 worth of unit trusts. Winners may select the type of unit trust they prefer from a range recommended by Equitable Life.

Call 0898-141-400 now. Can you identify the voice of today's business leader?

## Tarmac's market appeal dries up

In a bumper year for the British construction industry, the market would have ignored anything other than sparkling figures from Tarmac. After all, the company has a finger in all the industry's tastiest pies and a reputation for performance.

A maiden contribution from the US Tarmac-LoneStar was the main reason for the growth from acquisitions — accounting for a third of the 56 per cent profits increase.

Housing expanded by 1,000 units, taking the total to 11,236. Economies of scale and tight cost control contributed to the advance.

Operating margins at 18.4 per cent — up four percentage points — are almost unheard of in a housebuilder, particularly one which builds two-thirds of its homes outside the South-east at an average price of £48,500, below the national average.

Construction margins were wider as the quality of the order book improved. Tarmac is earning rewards from having a higher risk portfolio containing a small amount of management fee work.

The quarry products division suffered from competitive pricing although volumes were firm. Better margins should be earned this year.

The newly hived-off building materials division made good progress. It will continue

to invest in new capacity and search for acquisitions.

Tarmac-LoneStar matched budget, contributing more than \$50 million (£27 million) in operating profits. The other US businesses made modest progress in dollar terms but Tarmac is optimistic about 1988.

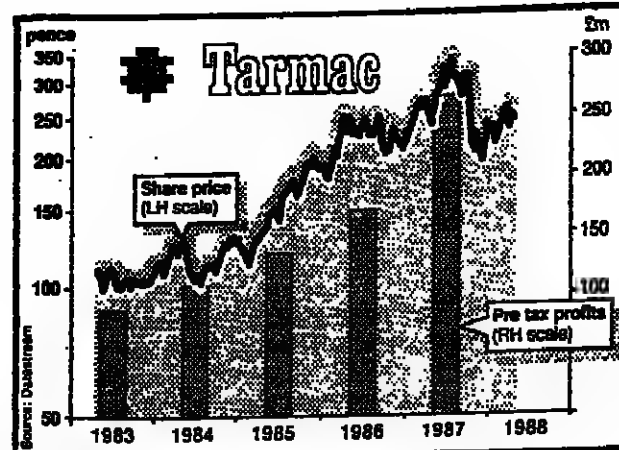
Although the US accounts for more than 16 per cent of operating profits this falls to 10 per cent of attributable earnings due to higher US tax rates and the LoneStar minority. However, 1987 pretax profits were depressed by £8 million due to exchange rate movements.

Even so, Tarmac must be congratulating itself on its modest exposure to the US, although this may be due to its relative tardiness in joining the acquisition trail rather than by deliberate design.

Gearing stands at 21 per cent, down from 36 per cent in 1986, so if Tarmac wished to step up its acquisition programme, it has the scope.

Tarmac should make £300 million this year, putting the stock on a p/e ratio of 9.5 times. This is not expensive given the group's record and spread of activities.

The shares, however, are not the market's favourites. The strengths that make them attractive to those wanting a well balanced slice of the sector are not so apparent in boom times when investors



think they can maximize their returns by investing directly in other companies active in each of Tarmac's seven sectors.

## Ratners

The transformation of Ratners Group from a sleepy family firm to the world's largest jewellery chain has taken less than five years.

The huge growth in size and profitability has, however, left the market somewhat sceptical. After more than doubled profits for three consecutive years, there are now concerns about saturation point being reached in Britain, where Ratners already has 20 per cent of the market.

The company has no such worries. It believes it can go to 50 per cent through taking on the none too hot competition

in a very fragmented market. The independents' share of the market — now about 42 per cent — has been crumbling and looks set to crumble further.

Ratners' target of 1,000 British outlets will be reached in the next two years, but profit growth should continue to come through from the benefits of centralized buying and distribution. The company is already flexing its buying muscles on a joint UK/US basis and earning very handsome discounts as a result.

It is also managing to add sales at an impressive pace. Last year the Ratners chain achieved a like for like sales increase of 25 per cent and H Samuel achieved more than 38 per cent.

The main expansion, however, will be centred on the US. Yesterday's acquisition

comes after two American buys last year and looks certain to be followed by more. The American jewellery industry is equally fragmented and Ratners is already grabbing market share through fierce price cutting and greater efficiency.

More American acquisitions should not lead to further share issues after two rights issues last year, but the nagging doubt remains. Yesterday's chosen instrument was the highly popular convertible preference share.

This year Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, the stockbroker, expects Ratners to make £77 million. The prospective p/e ratio of 10.4, on shares down 5p at 258p, is at an 8 per cent discount to the market.

With the vital Christmas season still a long way off, there is no immediate prospect of a rerating. There is also little downside in the shares at these levels.

## FR Group

FR Group's 31.5 per cent increase in pretax profits undershot market expectations and the shares dropped 2p to 252p.

At the operating level profits rose 13.6 per cent, but the boost came from a £5 million interest contribution from unspent rights issue proceeds. The company had just over £50 million in the bank at the

year end, offset by \$25 million borrowings in the US.

FR is looking to spend its cash pile and has six potential acquisitions in its sights in the UK, US and Europe. It is keeping within the broad area of manufacturing and engineering where there is synergy with the present defence, aerospace and electronics equipment supply operations. With 50 per cent of its business defence related, FR has suffered with other defence contractors from Ministry of Defence ordering delays and cancellations.

The best performances in the group came from FR Aviation and WES, which makes containers for the aerospace industry. Alan Cobham Engineering continued to be disappointing, with profits lower despite higher turnover, because of fierce competition. In the US profits from Stanley Aviation were reduced on translation by £200,000 due to the dollar's weakness. Carleton Components, bought for \$30 million last summer made only a nominal contribution.

Despite American turnover rising to an estimated £25 million this year from £15 million last year, the dollar borrowings gave the company a good hedge against a stronger pound.

Pretax profits this year are expected to grow by about 20 per cent. The shares are trading on a fairly flat historic p/e of 13.

## STOCK MARKET

## Courtaulds leaps on dawn raid hopes

Courtaulds, Britain's biggest textile group, is shaping up to become the next takeover target of an overseas predator, judging by the flurry of activity in after-hours trading last night which added £132 million to its stock market value.

The share price ended the day a hefty 33p higher at 385p, valuing the entire company at about £1.5 billion as almost 7 million shares changed hands. Talk in the market claims that Dupont, the US textile group, is about to launch a dawn raid on the company. Word is it is ready to pay up to 450p a share for a near 15 per cent stake.

During the last account, Courtaulds was the subject of intense takeover speculation with Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, the broker, reported to be a heavy buyer of the shares. There were even suggestions that it had managed to build a 3 per cent holding on behalf of one of its clients. Hanson is also reckoned to have held stake in Courtaulds for some time.

Courtaulds has built up a strong following in the City under the leadership of Sir Christopher Hogg, its chairman, after shaking off the effects of the recession a few years ago. Sir Christopher was unavailable for comment last

night. But one leading broker commented: "I would be surprised if a dawn raid materialized. The story is all around the market. It's hardly the best way to start a buying operation of that size."

Analysts are looking for pretax profits next month to show an increase of £18.9 million to £20 million.

Bid fever gripped the rest of the market which was cheered by the £2.1 billion offer for Rowntree from Nestlé. Sentiment was also bolstered by a cheerful survey from the Confederation of British Industry.

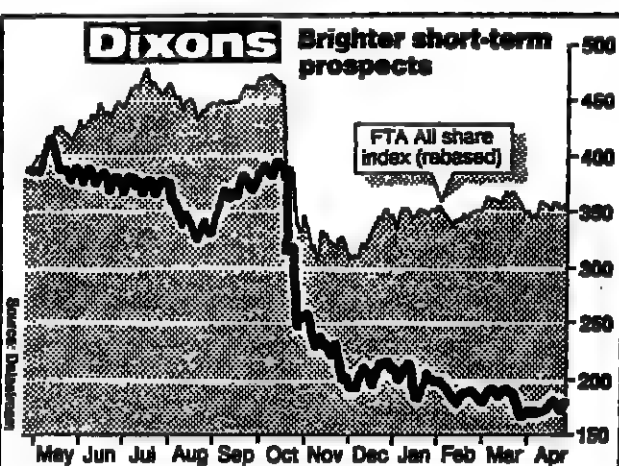
Share prices closed at their best levels of the day with the FT-SE 100 index again crossing the 1,800 mark. It closed 25.2 up at 1,800.8 despite continuing worries about the latest trade figures reported this week. The narrower FT index of 30 shares also finished higher, up 18.0 at 1,431.3 following another firm start to trading on Wall Street.

But government securities spent another lacklustre session with prices at the longer end of the market finishing 2½ lower as hopes of an early cut in interest rates continued to recede.

Dixons Group, the electrical retailer, which recently announced plans for a listing on the Tokyo stock exchange at the end of the month, rose 4p to 178p on a thin volume of 438,000 shares.

Mr Zak Keshavjee, stores analyst at SBC Savory Mill, reckons the shares are a buy.

He believes that Dixons is one of the best-managed retail companies in the sector despite the setback last year. Mr



Stanley Kalms, the chairman, has effectively reassumed frontline control and will direct operations.

The group is re-tuning its

Frederick Cooper is expected to launch a bid today for Lorin Electronics, the USM-quoted group, suspended on Monday at 160p. Dealers are talking of a bid of about 240p a share but Mr Bob "Big Bear" Morton is unlikely to join the bidding. He says the price is too high.

trading formula and during the trough of the consumer electrical replacement cycle, he predicts an annual profits growth of 15 per cent per annum rising sharply to 30 per cent-plus in the early 1990s when the sub-sector will be the fastest growing in retailing.

He forecasts that the group will reveal current year pretax profits of £102.5 million in July and expects £120 million for next year. He also reckons

that the prospective p/e of 9.3 times ignores a predictable and exciting replacement cycle. The shares are expected to rise to 250p on a year's view.

Two newcomers to the market made a satisfactory start to trading.

Dagenham Motors, the Ford dealer, placed at 110p on the main market by Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, opened at 120p and during the course of a moderate turnover eased to 115p before closing at 116p — a premium of 6p.

Moorfield Estates, the commercial and residential property developer in Yorkshire and the West Midlands placed at 120p on the Unlisted Securities Market by Strauss Turnbull, the broker, advanced to 131p before finishing at 126p, also an opening premium of 6p.

Fisons, the drugs, scientific instruments and horticulture group, which was a strong last week following favourable notices from Barclays de Zoete Wedd and Citicorp Scrim-

geour Vickers, the broker, rose another 1p to 257p on turnover of more than 2.3 million shares.

Mr Paul Woodhouse, analyst at Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, said the presentation planned for today at which Dr Ed Barnard of the Sloan Kettering Institute of New York, who has been involved in the clinical trials on Pentamidine, Fisons' drug used for treating AIDS-related pneumonia, had been postponed.

But Mr Barnard will be attending a seminar in Paris on Friday with other medical experts who have been studying Pentamidine. Mr Woodhouse and other Fisons followers are still hoping for some bullish reviews.

The food sector responded

Keep an eye on John Williams of Cardiff, the steel stockholder, where Wyndham Group is injecting £1 million in return for a 20 per cent stake. There is talk someone else is now stalking the shares. The ordinary shares held steady at 33p while the all-paid firm ½ to 8½p.

positively to the news that Nestlé had upstaged Jacobs Suchard, its Swiss rival, by launching its unwelcome offer for Rowntree, the Aero, KitKat, Smarties and Rolo chocolate group.

Rowntree soared 178p to 928p — well above the 890p-a-share bid terms offered by Nestlé. James Capel, the broker, was reported to be an aggressive buyer of the stock cum the 10.5p dividend. More

than 26 million shares changed hands.

Dealers were not surprised by the Nestlé move and were looking forward to see what sort of response it will draw from Suchard who recently acquired a near 15 per cent stake in Rowntree at 630p per share.

One dealer suggested that Suchard could launch a counter bid, but would possibly be just content to sell its stake at a handsome profit.

Buyers also singled out other companies with a speculative flavour which they hoped could attract the next bid.

Cadbury Schweppes was among the names mentioned in reports that General Cinema of the US, which already owns a near 18 per cent stake in the company, will bid for the rest. The shares rose to close 35p higher at 330p following a turnover of more than 25 million shares.

United Biscuits, whose products range from McVitie's to the Pizzalad and Wimpys fast food chains and which recently acquired the Ross Young frozen food business from Hanson for £335 million, was also supported on bid hopes and ended 22p better at 289p.

Banks Morris Macdonald advanced by 10 to 354p on hopes of a bid from Goodman Fielder of Australia, while Northern Foods closed a further 9p better at 274p on continuing talk of a consortium offer led by Mr John Randall.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

## NEW YORK

## Dow higher in early trading

(Reuters) — Wall Street share prices were generally higher in early trading yesterday with the blue chips extending small gains.

Brokers related buying to the moderate rise of 2.3 per cent in first-quarter gross national product. However, the GNP report also suggested consumer spending remained strong.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 7.13 to 2,064.43 at one stage when the transport indicator was up 1.94 to 855.14 and the utilities average just 0.47 higher at 170.52.

Advancing shares led

## TOKYO

## Nikkei edges up but caution rules

(Reuters) — Share prices closed slightly higher today closing a new high on incentive-backed buying yesterday, but the market mood was cautious with gains tempered by profit-taking, brokers said.

People were looking towards the US first-quarter gross national product figures, Mr Hiroyuki Wada, general manager of Okasan Securities, said. "We have been on an

uptrend for three days, and some investors are taking a bit of a break."

The Nikkei average gained 33.32 points, or 0.12 per cent, to close at 27,246.77. It climbed 155.08 points on Monday.

Rising shares almost matched declining issues on volume of one billion shares against 850 million that changed hands the previous day.

## FRANKFURT

## Prices ease as buyers stay away

(Reuters) — West German shares eased in quiet trading as lack of investor interest weighed on a frustrated market, dealers said.

"It's dead quiet. The prices can only go down when there's so little interest," one dealer said. "There's no incentive for investors to buy."

"When the big three (Daimler, Siemens and Deutsche

Bank) are weak, that isn't really compensated by Mannesmann gaining DM1," he said, referring to recent sessions where most of the buying has been bargain-hunting among less actively traded shares.

The Commerzbank 60-share index, calculated at mid-session, fell to 1,361.1 from 1,376.9 on Monday. The Börsen-Zeitung 30-share index ended at 292.28 after 293.95 the previous day.

Deutsche Bank managed to edge 50 pfennigs higher to DM411.50 but Commerzbank was unchanged at DM227.50 and Dresdner fell DM1.80 to DM245.20.

Siemens softened DM1.70 to DM343.40, AEG edged 30 pfennigs lower to DM204.70 and Nixdorf fell DM3.10 to DM505.70.

## WALL STREET

	Apr 26	Apr 27		Apr 26	Apr 27		Apr 26	Apr 27
AMR Co	43 1/2	43 1/2	Fidelity	8 1/2	8 1/2	Pennco	7 1/2	7 1/2
AMR Corp	44 1/2	44 1/2	Franklin	7 1/2	7 1/2	Pepsico	35 1/4	34 1/4
Ames Life	42 1/2	42 1/2	Putnam	28 1/2	28 1/2	Petrol	35 1/4	35 1/4
American	31 1/2	31 1/2	Putnam	26 1/2	26 1/2	Phelps Dod	45 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa	48 1/2	48 1/2	Putnam	24 1/2	24 1/2	Phila Ind	80 1/2	77 1/2
Alcoa Ind	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	22 1/2	22 1/2	Phila Ind	80 1/2	77 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	20 1/2	20 1/2	Polaroid	33 1/2	33 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	18 1/2	18 1/2	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	16 1/2	16 1/2	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	14 1/2	14 1/2	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	12 1/2	12 1/2	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	10 1/2	10 1/2	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	8 1/2	8 1/2	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	6 1/2	6 1/2	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	4 1/2	4 1/2	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	2 1/2	2 1/2	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	1 1/2	1 1/2	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	1/2	1/2	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
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Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	0 1/256	0 1/256	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
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Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	0 1/1024	0 1/1024	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
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Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	0 1/8589934592	0 1/8589934592	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
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Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	0 1/8796093022208	0 1/8796093022208	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
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Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	0 1/35184372888832	0 1/35184372888832	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	0 1/70368745777664	0 1/70368745777664	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
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Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	0 1/225179986485248	0 1/225179986485248	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
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Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	0 1/368934889857404672	0 1/368934889857404672	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
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Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	0 1/96714067766779490336768	0 1/96714067766779490336768	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	0 1/193428135533558980673536	0 1/193428135533558980673536	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	0 1/386856271067117961347072	0 1/386856271067117961347072	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
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Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	0 1/1547425084268471845388288	0 1/1547425084268471845388288	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	0 1/3094850168536943690776576	0 1/3094850168536943690776576	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
Alcoa West	21 1/2	21 1/2	Putnam	0 1/6189700337073887381553152	0 1/6189700337073887381553152	Procter & G	22 1/2	22 1/2
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# Ratners pays \$60m for US chain as profits soar 132%

By Alison Eadie

Ratners Group, Britain's leading jewellery chain, is spending \$60 million (£32 million) on the acquisition of Osterman's Inc., a US specialty retail jewellery chain with 56 outlets, which has its headquarters in Toledo, Ohio.

The acquisition follows the purchase last year of Sterling and Westhall in the US and takes the number of Ratners' American outlets to 274, operating in 31 states.

A further 37 new stores will be opened in America this year and more US acquisitions are planned.

Ratners yesterday posted a 132 per cent increase in pretax profits to £52.7 million, on turnover up 128 per cent at £562.2 million.

The US acquisitions contributed £14 million. Excluding these, the British operation increased their profits by 48 per cent.

Mr Gerald Ratner, the chairman and managing director, said the group still had a long way to go both in expanding in America and extracting greater profits in Britain.

He said that despite reports of a downturn in consumer



'Long way to go': Gerald Ratner in the City yesterday (Photograph: James Morgan)

and Ratners is confident that by the last quarter of this year Westhall should be achieving the same level of turnover and operating profit per store as the Sterling outlets.

In Britain, expansion continued, bringing the total number of group outlets to 735. H Samuel outlets rose by 29 to 364 and a further 50 openings are planned for this year.

The Ratners chain opened 56 new outlets and plans a further 25 this year.

Mr Ratner said the group was benefiting from economies of scale and the joint buying for US and British operations.

The more we buy the bigger the discounts, Mr Ratner said. Last year Ratners sold nearly £80 million worth of diamonds.

Fully-diluted earnings per share, after two rights issues last year, rose by 43 per cent to 21.73p. The total dividend was increased by 25 per cent to 5p.

## CWS lifts returns by 27% to £17m

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

The Co-Operative Wholesale Society boosted profits before tax and dividend by 27 per cent to £17.5 million for the year ending January 9, 1988 — an increase of £3.7 million over the previous year.

Sales showed a 1 per cent rise, less than the rate of inflation, up from £2,375 million to £2,402 million. A growth in retail sales of £57 million was offset by an £18 million sales decrease in the production and property division, where loss-making parts of the business were removed.

The profits increase follows a management reshuffle dividing the society's activities into two trading divisions. On sales to retail societies — half the society's business where the main criterion is to recover costs — services made an increased loss because of greater spending on new computer systems and a national advertising campaign to strengthen the Co-Op brand image.

"The bulk of the profits came from farming, manufacturing and property," said Sir Dennis Landau, the chief executive. These activities contributed to a division trading profit of £29.2 million against £25.7 million.

More than 1,000 retail outlets have been converted into convenience stores, although Sir Dennis said plans to increase the number of franchises had not taken off as fast as the society had thought. He said it intended to make factories more efficient, increase profits from the property portfolio, and improve distribution and services to retail societies.

The Co-Op Bank, which reports its results separately, was growing in its sector, he said. All branches are open from 9.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday. The Co-Op Visa card has been adopted as a store card by 30 societies.

## Inflation fears on US growth

From Bailey Morris Washington

The US economy grew by a moderate 2.3 per cent in the first quarter of the year after strong growth of 4.8 per cent in the final quarter of 1987, prompting a negative reaction in markets which saw the new data as evidence that growth remained on an upward, potentially inflationary course.

A careful review of the preliminary figures suggested that consumer spending, which had dipped sharply after the stock market crash in October, was again strong. Final sales, which mirror demand, rose by 2.6 per cent in the first quarter after a 0.9 per cent gain in the fourth quarter of 1987. Personal consumption expenditures also rose sharply, by 3.8 per cent.

The first quarter growth was in line with market expectations but analysts said that it did not dispel fears that the US Federal Reserve Board may soon be forced to raise interest rates.

## BET's Argus goes under the hammer

By Martin Waller

BET, the industrial services group, is auctioning Argus Press Holdings, which publishes a total of 320 magazines, yearbooks and local newspapers.

The move is part of BET's focus on its core business of industrial and support services. Last week it announced the sale of Rediffusion Simulation to Hughes Aircraft for £151 million.

Of the 150 magazines printed by Argus, *Slimming* is best known, with a monthly circulation of about 250,000. Argus also owns the South London Press group of local papers and a range of consumer and business titles.

A memorandum will go out next week to potential purchasers, who will be expected to sign confidentiality agreements. In another four weeks or so further details, including the results for the year to April 2, will be available, and they will be asked for non-binding offers.

The sale will command a hefty rarity premium and is expected to raise more than £200 million.

Sales revenues for the last financial year are estimated by the vendors at £138 million, excluding Burlington Publishing, which was sold to Associated Newspapers for an undisclosed sum last month. Analysts are estimating trading profits at £18 million, up from £14 million last time.

Negotiations are expected to last until the early summer, especially if the four separate divisions are sold to different purchasers. BET has said it will not contemplate a more substantial break-up.

The group says the selection of eventual purchasers will depend both on price and on their plans for Argus staff.

Once the Argus and Rediffusion deals have gone through the group will be cash positive, a spokesman said. But this did not mean it was priming itself for one big acquisition in its chosen field of support services, he added.

## COMMENT David Brewerton

# Rowntree, too sweet for Nestlé to ignore

The medieval calm of York was always destined to be shattered by a bid for Rowntree: it was only a matter of when. And how much.

The timing of the £2.1 billion Nestlé offer has been dictated not by Nestlé, nor even by Rowntree, but by the dawn raid from Jacobs Suchard two weeks ago. Those who sold out in the dawn raid are already regretting doing so, but their loss of 230p a share is minor compared with the consequences for Rowntree, which has been placed on the international auction block with no obvious means of escape.

Herr Helmut Maucher, managing director of Nestlé, was in London to explain that hostile takeovers are not the usual Nestlé route to growth. He and his board think of co-operation rather than confrontation and of persuasion rather than pre-emption. But when Jacobs Suchard set the Swiss rolling towards a full bid, Nestlé was bound to move. If it comes to a battle decided on muscle, Nestlé is bound to win. It is bigger, stronger and has a depth of resources which few can match.

The softly, softly approach is an admirable method of achieving expansion by acquisition, when it comes off. But Herr Maucher is probably rethinking his strategy following the Jacobs Suchard raid which put Rowntree into play. Nestlé had been courting and talking for a year. It has prepared in-depth studies, and Herr Maucher has met Kenneth Dixon, Rowntree's chairman. Nestlé was prepared to do a deal which fell far short of a takeover. Until Suchard acted, Nestlé had bought no Rowntree shares. It had in mind Rowntree joining the family, not a corporate kidnapping.

But when Suchard moved, even the long-term Nestlé had to make a short-term move. The battle is between the two Swiss companies, both dominated by German management styles. Suchard's acquisition of Rowntree would have changed the balance of power in the European food business, and Nestlé felt bound to act. "I could say we have been forced into this," Herr Maucher admitted yesterday.

Rowntree should have been able to read the signs but did not. Even after the Suchard raid, had it been prepared to align itself with a strong partner, through an exchange of interests or joint ventures, it could have retained a degree of independence and avoided a battle. Its delay has cost it a great deal in terms of the price it will have to pay to win.

Mr Dixon and the Rowntree management have nailed their colours firmly to the mast of continuing independence, but unless the Monopolies Commission is brought into the act, it is hard to measure their chances of success as anything more than remote. That is, of course, a shame: not for xenophobic reasons (although we should not forget that Nestlé has insulated itself from foreign takeover by its mix of registered and bearer shares) but because Rowntree is a company which does have the potential to grow into a true multi-national.

As for the potential counter bidders, they must be few and far between. Three-quarters of the value of the Nestlé bid is for the goodwill attaching to the Rowntree business, rather than tangible assets. That will be written off, for the Nestlé balance sheet contains no goodwill element, but there are few companies which have the stomach to write

off £1.5 billion of goodwill in a single hit. There are, however, some, and there are not many companies as sweet as Rowntree still available for purchase. Nevertheless, Rowntree is not the only British company listed for possible action by Nestlé. There is another major strategic move in the preliminary planning stage: it is not Cadbury Schweppes.

The bid comes at a useful moment in the Rowntree calendar for, four months into the year and with the important Easter season behind it, the company has a good idea of where it is going in the current year and will be in a position to make a credible forecast. But that said, it is hard to see the management coming up with a figure which would make the shares worth in excess of the 890p price except in a bid, where brands command a premium. In everyday stock market valuations, food companies stand at earnings multiples which barely reach the teens.

And it will be difficult, too, for Rowntree to play the Pilkington card which defeated BTR: Nestlé's thinking is so dedicated to long-term growth that even interim financial statements are banned within the group, and Nestlé will not list its shares on any stock exchange which insists on financial reports more often than once a year.

Rowntree does deserve its independence, but against a bid which offers shareholders the chance to double their money, it faces a titanic struggle.

## Maestro's magic

Privatization has been sound economics and brilliant politics. But although the show still has some way to run the question has begun to arise of what to do for an encore.

At a conference organized by the Institute for International Research, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Norman Lamont, emphasized yesterday the tremendous scope the Government sees, as well as selling state enterprise to the private sector, for inviting the private sector into areas traditionally run by the state.

It is not money which the Government is seeking. With the Budget in surplus the Treasury can raise all the money it wants, generally at finer rates than any private sector borrower. Instead, it is looking, in Mr Lamont's words, for "the private sector's ideas, its management skills, its enterprise, its flexibility and its responsiveness to incentive and risk".

This is surely the right emphasis. There is no point in using private funds simply in order to reclassify public spending as private. The touchstone must be cost-effectiveness.

That should still leave enormous scope for greater private participation within the existing £150 billion of public spending. Contracting out is much less of a habit in Government than in private industry. Major infrastructure projects like the Dartford crossing which are revenue-producing can often be run more cost-effectively by the private sector than by Government. The review of the Health Service, now under way, is explicitly concerned with bringing in more commercial skills including perhaps privately-run hospitals.

The Government has put up a sign: "open to ideas." Success in importing private sector skills into large areas of the public sector would be just as important an achievement as the privatization programme itself.

## Camotech trebles to £538,000

By Michael Tate

Camotech, the maker of aircraft seats for British Airways, Cathay Pacific and supplier of air-cleaning parts for Ford and Rover cars, trebled profits in the six months to end-February, from £132,000 to £538,000.

Earnings per share rose to 5p against 1.1p and the interim dividend is increased from 0.686p to 1p.

Mr Peter McCormack, the chairman, expects just as strong a performance in the second half, he says the group remains "acquisitive, hungry". It must, however, wait another year before it can return to the USM from the third market.

## £1.94m Kitty Little placing

By Joe Joseph

Kitty Little, a Stoke company that designs, makes and markets decorative room, car and shoe fresheners, was launched on the Unlisted Securities Market yesterday via a placing of £1.94 million new shares at 90p each, valuing the fast-growing group at £8.5 million.

Kitty Little's products sell through high street department stores and supermarkets, with Boots — Kitty Little's largest customer — accounting for 41 per cent of last year's sales of £4.13 million. Exports, which went to more than 20 countries, swallowed up 17 per cent of turnover.

The £1.575 million net raised by the share placing will be used to provide increased working capital and acquisitions for the group, which



Fresh on the market: Graham Webster, the chairman made pretax profits in the year to January 30 of £846,000. Yesterday's placing by Laurence Prust, the broker, represents 20 per cent of the company's enlarged share capital. Mr Graham Webster, chairman, will hold 71.5 per cent of the enlarged capital, with the remaining 8.5 per cent held by other board members. None of the existing shareholders sold shares in the placing.

## IN BRIEF

### Cosalt turns in £1.3m

More than doubled pretax profits of £1.3 million in the six months to the end of February from Cosalt, the ship's chandler and caravan maker, up from £563,000 last time. Have been accompanied by a 1p rise in the interim dividend to 2.5p.

### BDA first

In its first year as a public company, BDA Holdings, the property and professional construction services consultant, reported an 11 per cent rise in pretax profits to £1.1 million. Sales rose from £3.9 million to £4.6 million. Earnings per share fell from 9.2p to 8.4p in the 12 months to end-January. A final dividend of 1.5p was declared making a total of 2.5p for the year.

### Dencora plan

Dencora, the property investment and development group, more than doubled taxable profits from £1.82 million to £4.06 million last year on turnover of £22.4 million. The company has acquired a 14-acre site in Ashford, Kent — the site of the Channel Tunnel terminal — which it intends to develop for light industrial and high technology use.

### Casket up

Casket, the Manchester clothing distributor which took over the similar Kingsley & Forester business late last year, increased pretax profits on a merger-accounted basis by 26 per cent to £5.03 million in the six months to December. Turnover rose to £52.24 million, from £49.28 million. The half-way dividend is stepped up to 1.2p from 1.0p.

### Plumb soars

Plumb Holdings, the shop-fitter whose clients include Burton and Marks and Spencer, almost doubled pretax profits from £1.45 million to £2.88 million in the year to January 30. Turnover grew by £22 million to £48.9 million. There is a final dividend of 3p making 4.25p for the year against a total of 3p last time.

### Property rise

Scottish Metropolitan Property, the Glasgow investment property group, reported a marginal increase in pretax profits in the half year to February 15 from £3.7 million to £3.8 million. Net revenues grew by 20 per cent to £5.5 million. An interim dividend of 2p per share was declared, up from 1.9p last year.

## High-flyer spreads his wings

Mini-conglomerate Cresta Holdings, set up by Belfast man Brian O'Connor in the Isle of Man three years ago and now publicly quoted, has scored an unlikely coup in luring Civil Service high-flyer and fellow Ulsterman John McAllister away from the chief executive's post at the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board. Widely tipped, in time, to become head of the NI Civil Service, which he joined 24 years ago, McAllister, aged 46, had had a glittering career there. As a result there has been, I hear, genuine surprise in Belfast business circles this week after the announcement of his departure, and even greater surprise yesterday when he finally disclosed what his new job would be. It appears he will become chairman and chief executive of Cresta's Ulster subsidiary, which, like its parent, spans financial services, corporate communications, construction and property, care of the elderly and sheltered housing, as well as retail garages. Although a promising little company — it has net assets of £6.6 million and recently notched up profits of just under £1 million — it is nevertheless an unlikely setting for a man whom talent-spotting had already marked down for a "K".

## Goldfingers

Where would you find the biggest hoard of gold in the world? The vaults of the Bank

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Streak of bad luck

Fresh from a debut on US cable news, where he was holding forth about the British stock market, Howard Appleby, New York-based salesman for London broker Hoare Govett is, I hear, about to have further exposure forced upon him. Throughout the past fortnight or so, as speculation of a bid for Rowntree mounted, he was adamant that nothing would come of it. So much so that he promised clients he would drop his trousers on Park Avenue if a takeover bid did materialize. Even after Suchard's dawn raid, Appleby, aged 28, stuck to his guns, saying the Swiss group would never launch a full bid. He further vowed that if a third party entered the fray he would run naked down Park Avenue between 52nd Street and 72nd — past HG's Manhattan office.

of England? In the home of an Arab prince? No. Estimated at 7,000 tonnes, it seems it is in the hands of private individuals in India and has been amassed as a result of that age-old tradition of bridal dowry. There are, I am told, 10 million marriages a year in India, producing an annual demand for 140 tonnes of the stuff. But because the import of gold into India is banned by the Gold Control Act, the country's 500,000 goldsmiths and jewellers are expected to survive by recycling gold ornaments. Needless to say there is a thriving market in smuggled precious metals with, consequently, 10 grammes of gold selling for about £40 more than in London. Since an Indian bride is supposed to be accompanied by a dowry of at least 100 grammes of gold ornaments — costing £2,000 — the upward trend in the gold price is watched with alarm by Indian parents.



## Trading places

Two former Wedd Durlacher partners, Charlie Philipson and Jimmy Cox, who parted company with the firm's new parent BZW in February, will, I hear, soon be back in the City. Cox, who had been with Wedd since he was 18, starts as a market-maker at Alexander's Laing & Cruickshank next Tuesday. Meanwhile, Philipson, a larger-than-life character of the old City mould, has decided to turn his back on market-making by joining the agency broker Fiske & Co. He starts on May 23, after a trip to the South of France with his wife Caroline to celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary. "I was approached by a number of firms, including two market-makers, but I decided that market-making is a young man's game," says Philipson, aged 43. "It will be a change but I'm looking forward to it — in the City these days small is beautiful, and I wanted to be with a firm where they haven't forgotten that they are operating in a service industry and really do offer a service to clients."

Extrusion clause? All 36 showgirls who wear £1m worth of costumes in Harold Fielding's *Ziegfeld*, which opened at the London Palladium last night, have contracts stipulating that they will be weighed once a week, and must stay the shape they were when fitted if they are to keep their parts.

Staff at Consolidated Gold Fields are clearly touchy about their new head office address. A colleague, confirming an appointment there, said: "See you at King Charles Street."

The reply was barked: "I am not a special. The address is Charles II Street."

Carol Leonard

## WORCESTER

Worcester Group plc — the fully listed domestic central heating specialists who are the UK's leading manufacturers of 'combi' gas-fired boilers under the 'Heatslave' trademark.

Year	Pre-tax profits (£m)
1985	£0.60m
1986	£2.20m
1987	£3.14m

Year	Earnings per share (p)
1985	2.1p
1986	6.7p
1987	9.1p

Pre-tax profits for 1987 up by 42%.  
Earnings per share show 36% increase.  
Total dividend per share up by 43%.

"Trading conditions in all our subsidiary companies are particularly good and, with continuing strong demand for our range of 'combi' boilers, we can look forward to another excellent performance by the Group in 1988."

Cecil Duckworth,  
Chairman & Chief Executive,

## WORCESTER GROUP PLC

A copy of the group's latest Annual Report can be obtained by writing to: The Secretary, Worcester Group plc, Navigation Road, Diglis, Worcester WR5 3DG.



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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
Three Month Sterling											
Jan	91.22	91.22	91.22	91.22	30108	US Treasury Bond					
Feb	91.22	91.22	91.22	91.22	17708	Jan 82	96-17	96-25	96-26	96-27	12082
Mar	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Feb 82	96-17	96-25	96-27	96-27	0
Apr	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Mar 82	96-17	96-25	96-27	96-27	0
May	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Jun 82	96-17	96-25	96-27	96-27	0
Jun	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Sept 82	96-17	96-25	96-27	96-27	0
Jul	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Dec 82	96-17	96-25	96-27	96-27	0
Aug	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Mar 83	96-17	96-25	96-27	96-27	0
Sept	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Jun 83	96-17	96-25	96-27	96-27	0
Oct	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Sept 83	96-17	96-25	96-27	96-27	0
Nov	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Dec 83	96-17	96-25	96-27	96-27	0
Dec	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Mar 84	96-17	96-25	96-27	96-27	0
Three Month Eurodollar											
Jan	92.45	92.45	92.45	92.45	30859	FT-SE 100					
Feb	92.45	92.45	92.45	92.45	1483	Jan 82	178.50	180.40	178.80	180.40	7007
Mar	92.45	92.45	92.45	92.45	1483	Feb 82	178.50	180.40	178.80	180.40	7007
Apr	92.45	92.45	92.45	92.45	1483	Mar 82	178.50	180.40	178.80	180.40	7007
May	92.45	92.45	92.45	92.45	1483	Jun 82	178.50	180.40	178.80	180.40	7007
Jun	92.45	92.45	92.45	92.45	1483	Sept 82	178.50	180.40	178.80	180.40	7007
Jul	92.45	92.45	92.45	92.45	1483	Dec 82	178.50	180.40	178.80	180.40	7007
Aug	92.45	92.45	92.45	92.45	1483	Mar 83	178.50	180.40	178.80	180.40	7007
Sept	92.45	92.45	92.45	92.45	1483	Jun 83	178.50	180.40	178.80	180.40	7007
Oct	92.45	92.45	92.45	92.45	1483	Sept 83	178.50	180.40	178.80	180.40	7007
Nov	92.45	92.45	92.45	92.45	1483	Dec 83	178.50	180.40	178.80	180.40	7007
Dec	92.45	92.45	92.45	92.45	1483	Mar 84	178.50	180.40	178.80	180.40	7007
Three Month Euroyen											
Jan	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Japanese Govt Bond					
Feb	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Jan 82	108.25	108.35	108.16	108.35	0
Mar	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Feb 82	108.25	108.35	108.16	108.35	0
Apr	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Mar 82	108.25	108.35	108.16	108.35	0
May	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Jun 82	108.25	108.35	108.16	108.35	0
Jun	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Sept 82	108.25	108.35	108.16	108.35	0
Jul	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Dec 82	108.25	108.35	108.16	108.35	0
Aug	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Mar 83	108.25	108.35	108.16	108.35	0
Sept	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Jun 83	108.25	108.35	108.16	108.35	0
Oct	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Sept 83	108.25	108.35	108.16	108.35	0
Nov	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Dec 83	108.25	108.35	108.16	108.35	0
Dec	91.27	91.27	91.27	91.27	201	Mar 84	108.25	108.35	108.16	108.35	0

COMMODITIES

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G W Joynton											
COCA	May 93-902	Mr 929-863									
Jul 929-902	May 1009-1002										
Sep 944-842	Jul 1029-1020										
Dec 964-892	Oct 1049-1040										
G W Joynton											
COFFE	Jul 1079-1076	Jan 1187-1180									
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## WCRS in second French purchase

By Martin Waller  
WCRS Group, the fast-expanding advertising and communications agency, is moving further into the French market with the acquisition of SCGM, which claims to be Europe's largest independent media buying group, for a maximum of £77.5 million.

The move, which was signposted in March when WCRS said it was in talks with the French company, follows last September's acquisition of a 49 per cent stake in the Group, Belier agency in France. The deal needed the blessing of the French Treasury, which was given only last week.

The complex consideration package involves an initial payment of FF688.7 million (£64.4 million), which can be varied, once the French group's earnings for the three years to June 1989 are known.

A further 11.765 per cent of this payment is varied, to be due after June 1991, but only if the group achieved a 15 per cent compound growth rate per annum over the previous three years in its post-tax profits.

The acquisition is funded by a long-term bank loan of £64 million, arranged with a syndicate of banks, with a further £26 million available, if appropriate.

SGGM, which claims a 20 per cent share of the French television, radio, cinema and magazine market for media buying, draws 25 per cent of its turnover from outside France.

The present management will continue to exercise day-to-day control of the business, while keeping half the equity.

Mr Charles Stern, the WCRS finance director, said the move into the Continent had in part been prompted by the ending of trade barriers in 1992 and the continuing deregulation and fast growth rate of European media.

There was also the trend towards pan-European media outlets such as satellite television.

"At this stage the French side is only very small, but we're looking for growth in the future," he added.

Eurotunnel chief puts the case for a special high-speed train service

## On the right rails for Europe

By Joe Joseph

Unless a dedicated, high-speed rail line is built to funnel traffic through the South of England towards the Channel Tunnel, Britain's business community, tourists and conservationists risk undermining the benefits promised by the cross-Channel rail link, planned to open in 1993.

Mr Alastair Morton, the British co-chairman of Eurotunnel, the Anglo-French consortium building the tunnel, gave this warning last night. He said that, without such a line, incentives to stay on the roads around London would remain, and London and Kent would be the butt of continuous motorway building or dangerous and uneconomic congestion on the roads as well as in the air.

Delivering the annual Henry Ford II lecture at the Cranfield School of Management, Mr Morton predicted that unless British Rail and Parliament improved the rail infrastructure in the South-east, the business community would not be fully hooked into the European rail system.

It might then lose some benefits offered by the tunnel for freight transport economics and inventory management, and would be robbed of the full opportunities of the single European market in 1992.

"The opportunity lies in rail," said Mr Morton, "the opportunity to avoid the devastation of Kent in the national interest, and also the opportunity to take our full place in the emerging physical structure of Europe."

Mr Charles Stern, the WCRS finance director, said the move into the Continent had in part been prompted by the ending of trade barriers in 1992 and the continuing deregulation and fast growth rate of European media.

There was also the trend towards pan-European media outlets such as satellite television.

"At this stage the French side is only very small, but we're looking for growth in the future," he added.



Warning note: Alastair Morton spoke of the danger of uneconomic traffic congestion

## Main machines near completion

By David Young

The two main boring machines being built to create the undersea rail routes for the Channel Tunnel have cleared the design stage.

Most fabrication work for the huge machines is complete. Final machining, including turning work on one of the largest vertical lathes in the world, is taking place at the

Explaining that "commercial structure follows transport structure," he added: "Without the tunnel, Great Britain would have come to look somewhat like South Wales would look without the Severn Bridge and the M4 connecting it to the larger market in England, but by links of increasingly desperate congestion."

Chesterfield works of Markham, one of the partners in the joint venture company producing the machines.

The machines will build and grout the tunnel linings and lay the rails and the electrical and water services as they advance along the tunnel.

Each is 220 metres long and backed by a 205-metre support train. They will contain fire-

fighting foam systems, and ventilation and dust suppression equipment, and are designed to move forward at a rate of six metres an hour, removing 1,300 tonnes of spoil as they go.

The boring machines have been designed by the Robbins Company in the US. Markham is a Trafalgar House company.

to economies in inventory control - 24 to 36 hours off deliveries to northern Italy - reliably permitting Britain to participate in the rationalization of assembly and storage without loss of design and manufacturing demand on our workpeople."

Outlining the alternatives to a high-speed rail line, Mr Morton said: "Runways are a

"With the tunnel, Great Britain can be fully hooked into the rail system. Manchester to Paris in six hours or so for the executive; Milton Keynes to Geneva by sleeper for the skier will be possible. London will hold its own as a financial capital, instead of declining to also-ran."

"With the tunnel, British industry can have full access

million, was in line with expectations. Sales to American customers remained high.

CI has close links with fellow engineer Evered Holdings. Mr Ahmed Abdullah, the elder brother of the two joint chairmen at Evered, has a 10 per cent stake, and the CI non-executive chairman, Mr Roy Kettle, is a full-time Evered board member.

The heavy acquisition programme would continue, he pledged, and predicted at least one large acquisition and a couple of smaller "bolt-ons" each year.

Several minor deals were pending, but CI was not talking to anyone of any size.

The contribution from Bipe, which formerly traded on the Unlisted Securities Market and was purchased for £18.4

## Ward appeals on repayment

Mr Thomas Ward, the former Guinness director, yesterday launched an Appeal Court challenge to the ruling that he must pay back the £5.2 million he received from the drinks group.

He claims that the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson was wrong when he ruled in the High Court last year that the payment for his part in the Guinness bid for Distillers was unlawful.

His counsel, Mr Peter Curry QC, told three appeal judges that the Vice-Chancellor ruled that the payment to Mr Ward, via a Jersey-based company, should have been disclosed to the board but was not.

But Mr Curry said the question was whether there had been authorization for the

payment, and it was "quite clear" there had been.

He submitted that the payment did not have to be disclosed to the board - but even if it did have to be, and was not, that did not make the contract invalid.

Guinness, who sued both Mr Ward and Mr Ernest Saunders, its former chairman, over the payment, is defending the appeal, expected to last three days.

The judges, led by Lord Justice Fox, earlier refused an application by Mr Saunders for a reporting ban on the appeal hearing until after the criminal charges he faces have been heard.

The hearing, in which Mr Saunders is not involved, continues.

## Khoo company is suspended in HK

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Stock Exchange has suspended a company controlled by Tan Sri Khoo Teck Pui, the Malaysian financier, for failing to put 25 per cent of its shares in the hands of the public.

The suspension of Estate Finance, a property and share-dealing company, looks set to be the first in a clampdown on listed companies that are more than 75 per cent held by main shareholders.

According to a stock exchange spokesman, there are more than 10 such companies and the listing committee is "studying each case on its merits."

Some companies, such as Ka Wah Bank and Hong Kong Telecommunications, are special cases, he said.

Ka Wah Bank was rescued from collapse in 1986 when CITIC, a Peking-backed corporation, took a 92 per cent stake. It has been told it must reduce its holding to 75 per cent by the end of June and last week CITIC cut it back to 84 per cent by placing shares with an institutional investor.

Hong Kong Telecommunications was floated on the exchange early this year as a holding company that merged the two Hong Kong subsidiaries of Cable and Wireless.

After the flotation, Cable and Wireless still controls 80 per cent of the shares, while the Hong Kong government owns 11 per cent.

However, underwriters have now been appointed to sell off 11 per cent of the communications company, the largest company on the Crown Colony's exchange, to the public.

The stock exchange spokesman said Estate Finance had been approached in September last year and told to comply with the 75 per cent limit.

Tan Sri Khoo and his family jointly own about 60 per cent of Estate Finance's share capital, while the National Bank of Brunei, which is controlled by the Brunei government, owns 30 per cent.

But the shares, which were worth HK\$2.05 before the stock market crash, are now worth just 80 cents, and it appears the main shareholders are not willing sellers at that price.

## Acquisition helps CI to double profits

By Martin Waller

CI Group, the acquisition-hungry engineer formerly known as Cooper Industries, saw pretax profits double to £3.01 million in the year to end-January from £1.5 million previously.

The result was boosted by a £700,000 contribution from Bipe, the rubber moulding

machinery maker purchased last August.

Organic profits growth was 18 per cent, held back by a £300,000 trading loss from the Meads Cooper mechanical handling subsidiary, said Mr Cedric Grew, the managing director. This division had since been reorganized and was now trading profitably.

Group turnover rose from

£34.48 million to £39.16 million.

A final dividend of 0.85p increases the year's total to 1.375p, from 1.05p the previous year.

Trading across the group in the present year was buoyant, said Mr Grew, and all companies enjoyed good order levels.

The heavy acquisition pro-

gramme would continue, he pledged, and predicted at least one large acquisition and a couple of smaller "bolt-ons" each year.

Several minor deals were pending, but CI was not talking to anyone of any size.

The contribution from Bipe, which formerly traded on the Unlisted Securities Market and was purchased for £18.4

## Ward Group rises 31.5% to £4.3m

By Our City Staff

The Ward Group, the Yorkshire building components and structural steel company, saw pretax profits rise by 31.5 per cent in 1987, its first full year as a quoted company, from £3.28 million to £4.31 million.

The improvement came in all areas of the group's business, said Mr Nigel Forsyth, the chief executive, although three companies were still being developed last year and made little contribution.

Turnover grew by 27.5 per cent to £75.14 million. The final dividend of 2.8p gives a total for the year of 4.3p, against a notional 3.7p in 1986.

Last year saw further expansion into Europe with the purchase of the Belgian company Chamebel. As a result, this year about half the turnover and a minimum 25 per

cent of pretax profits would flow from the Continent.

Cash balances of £13.14 million at the end of last year were clipped by £1 million with the completion of the Chamebel purchase, and another £6 million is budgeted for capital spending this year.

The group should still be cash-positive at year-end, and it has additional loan financing in place worth £15 million and 7 million unissued shares to fund future acquisitions, said Mr Forsyth.

"We feel we have the group structure, control systems and administration now to take on another sizeable business, but we have nothing planned in the immediate future."

With profits due from the new businesses this year, analysts are looking for anything up to £6 million pretax for 1988.

## Profits up at Walker Greenbank

By Joe Joseph

Walker Greenbank, the industrial mini-conglomerate led by Sir Anthony Jolliffe, the former Lord Mayor of London, is planning to strengthen its grip on the growing market for medicare products as part of its move from mechanical engineering to consumer-related areas.

"Our target is to hit £50 million of turnover in medicare products within five years," said Sir Anthony.

Pretax profits rose 42.3 per cent to £11.1 million, on sales of £93.3 million, in the year to end-January, he reported. A final dividend of 1.75p (1.5p), makes 2.25p for the year.

"Last year was one of consolidation, preparing ourselves to go forward in specific areas - supermarket and store fitting, wall coverings, where we have 56 per cent of the contract wall coverings business in the UK, and that business is expanding rapidly; and Wilcomatic," he said.

"At the same time we entered a new area, medicare, which is not bringing in a great deal but we see it as a tremendous growth area."

"The net reorganization costs accounted for £1.5 million out of a total extraordinary cost of £2.1 million.

## GPT video agreement

GEC Plessey Telecommunications, GPT, has signed an agreement with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company for ATT to sell its video conferencing equipment for use on ATT networks.

GEC began making the video codecs seven years ago and

has about a quarter of the US market, estimated at \$30 million (£16 million) a year, Mr Alan Finnegan, sales and marketing manager at GPT, said.

The video systems business, with turnover of about \$15 million in the year to March 31, became part of GPT on its formation this month.

## Protection for deposits payout leaps

The Deposit Protection Board paid out £13 million to depositors in failed deposit-taking institutions in the year to the end of February, compared with £720,000 in the previous year.

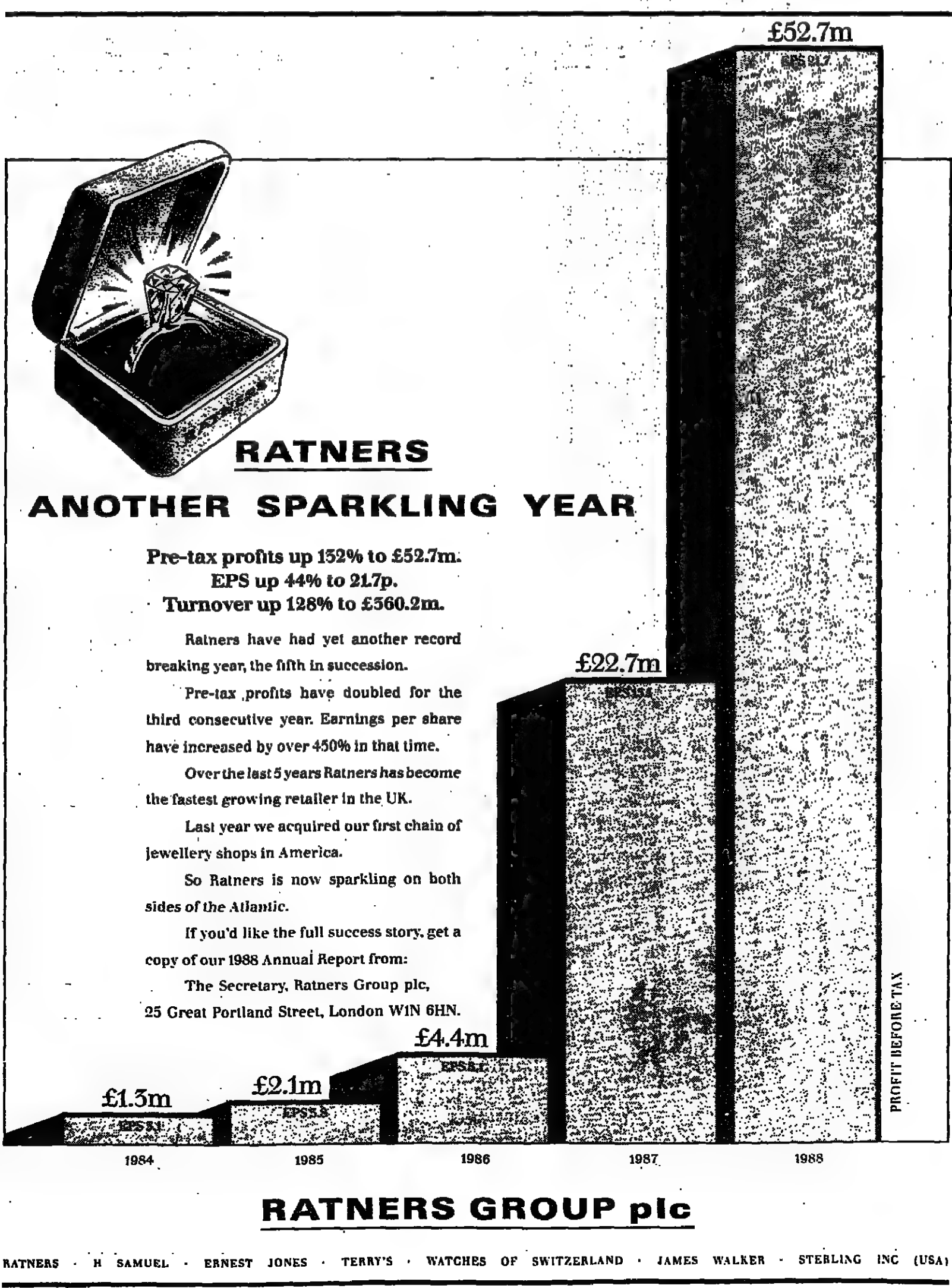
More than £500,000 of the total was paid to depositors with Consumer Credit Investments.

The board ran a deficit of £835,000 for the year, but this does not include recoveries from liquidators, which rose from £123,000 to £378,000.

The fund ended with a balance of £4.8 million.

## BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.00%
Aden & Company	8.00%
BCD	8.00%
Consolidated Crds	8.00%
Co-operative Bank	8.00%
C. Hoare & Co	8.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.00%
Lloyds Bank	8.00%
Nat Westminster	8.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.00%
TSB	8.00%
Chibank NA	8.00%



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## £5m Ewart call after cold store acquisition

**By Martin Waller**  
Ewart, the Belfast property developer formerly known as Ewart New Northern, has acquired West Kent Cold Storage in a deal which gives the vendors a 31 per cent stake in the enlarged company.

At the same time Ewart, whose shares were suspended on Friday pending the reorganization, is making a one-for-one rights issue at 125p to raise about £5.75 million, as much as £5 million of which will go to repay West Kent's bank debts.

Ewart is paying £6 million, in the form of 4.8 million new shares at the rights issue price, for the cold storage operation, which will continue to operate pending future development.

The development — probably residential in the main — will be near Sevenoaks, Kent, close to the M25.

The deal, which already has the support of the two largest shareholders speaking for more than 30 per cent of the company, will be put to an extraordinary meeting on May 18. The shares are likely to remain suspended until then.

If it goes through, Mr Ross Reed, a Northern Ireland accountant who controls the cold storage company, will have a 24 per cent stake

**By Maria Scott**

Mr Alexander Sandison, a retired scientific librarian, hopes to lead a mutiny against the Abbey National Building Society's plans to become a public company.

Mr Sandison, aged 73, intends to ask directors of the society at its annual meeting in London today to abandon the idea. Alternatively, he believes, members ought to be consulted about whether they want their society to convert before the Abbey goes through the costly exercise of deciding how this will be done.

To convert, the society must secure a 75 per cent vote in favour from 20 per cent of the 4.5 million investors eligible to vote on the formal resolution, when it is eventually tabled. This is still many months away. It must also obtain a majority in a separate ballot of borrowers. In total it will have to muster support from almost 1 million people, not exactly a push-over, it believes.

But Mr Sandison fears it will go through "on the nod" and he argues that opinions should be canvassed now.

"It is going to cost them a lot of money to work out the legal implications of the change and that money is

# Lone rebel to declare war on Abbey's plan for a flotation



**Doubts about societies diversifying: Alexander Sandison (Photograph: Paul Lovelace)**



# aim 'is to up prices'

Correspondent, Vienna

The seven non-Opec members of the oil cartel are aiming to raise the price of oil by as much as 10 per cent, according to a report from Vienna. The report, which was obtained by the Times, says that the seven non-Opec members, which include Algeria, Ecuador, Indonesia, Libya, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, are planning to raise the price of oil from \$11.50 a barrel to \$12.65 a barrel. The report also says that the seven non-Opec members are planning to raise the price of oil in a series of steps, with the first step being a 5 per cent increase in the price of oil from \$11.50 to \$12.08 a barrel. The report also says that the seven non-Opec members are planning to raise the price of oil in a series of steps, with the first step being a 5 per cent increase in the price of oil from \$11.50 to \$12.08 a barrel.

## PHA STOCKS

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## OPTION TRADED OPTIONS

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your daily total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it was more than the daily or accumulator dividend, you have made a profit. If it was less, you have lost. If it was the same, you have broken even. This is the aim of the Portfolio gold card. It is to help you to make a profit from the stock market. The Portfolio gold card is a new product from the Times. It is a gold card which contains eight share price movements. You can use it to check your daily total and compare it with the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it was more than the daily or accumulator dividend, you have made a profit. If it was less, you have lost. If it was the same, you have broken even. This is the aim of the Portfolio gold card. It is to help you to make a profit from the stock market.

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## BRITISH FUNDS

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## UNDATED

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## INDEX-UNKE

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

### Strong gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 25. Dealings and May 6. Settlement day May 16. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 30)

## NEWBORN

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## FINANCE, LAND

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## FOODS

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## CINEMAS, TV

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## DRAPERY, STORES

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## HOTELS, CATERERS

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+

## INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	Price	Change
Admiral	140	+
Anglo	130	+
Bankers	120	+
British	110	+
Chemical	100	+
Electrical	90	+
Food	80	+
Gas	70	+
Insurance	60	+
Leisure	50	+
Marine	40	+
Media	30	+
Metals	20	+
Oil	10	+
Property	0	+
Shipping	0	+
Software	0	+
Tobacco	0	+
Transport	0	+
Utilities	0	+
Wine	0	+
Wool	0	+







هكذا من الأهل

## MEDIA &amp; MARKETING

## Selling serials like cornflakes

David Housham on the less glamorous Cannes festival: for world television

Europe's biggest television programme market, MIP-TV, which begins its annual week of hype in Cannes tomorrow, does not quite exude the excitement and glamour of the film festival that follows it into town a couple of weeks later.

The ever-expanding army of MIP participants — 6,000 this year from 1,500 companies and 107 countries — stay in the same four-star hotels and eat the same luscious bar prices as the Hollywood directors and producers. But they cannot escape turning the international exchange of television programmes into the unglamorous equivalent of a DIY hypermarket where mini-series, action-adventures, game shows and children's cartoons are sold like cultural chipboard, available by the metre.

MIP is strictly for the business pages. With typical mistrust of the market celebrating its 25th anniversary this year even though it is only 34 years since it arrived in Cannes. The justification for this timeslip is that it allows a big silver send-off for the insatiable French entrepreneur, Bernard Chevre, who has maintained a powerful influence over the market he founded. Last year he sold his Midem organization, which runs a string of French media markets, for £4.9 million to Telco Communications, the commercial arm of the ITV



Period piece for auction: John Buchan's *Hannay* (above) from *Thames and India's* *Wire* company, Television South. It is thought that Chevre will finally step down as president of Midem after the planned gala dinner in his honour this Saturday.

Despite all the activity, there is not usually a great deal of actual selling at MIP — most of the big deals have been pre-arranged and are only launched on a sea of champagne to the Press at the market. MIP's chief function is as a winning, dining, flesh-pressing, palm-greasing, back-slapping talking shop.

The new Telco organizers are promising a greater emphasis on business rather than black-tie this year. Both to reflect the growth of commercial and satellite television in Europe and to attract advertising agencies to MIP. Midem is staging a conference on barter syndication at the market.

Barter syndication involves a television channel or station obtaining programming in exchange for a



'slice of advertising air time. At one extreme this can amount to super-sponsorship of a most attractive kind for an advertiser: it can make its own programmes (cheaper than commercials) and advertise itself all round them.

One surprisingly eager advocate of barter syndication is BBC Enter-



Mini-series for sale: *Sherlock Holmes* (above) and *Every Breath You Take* from Granada

prises, which is attending MIP with its aggressively restructured sales force. In 1987, BBC Enterprises signed £7 million worth of sales and co-production deals at MIP.

Changes in the British industry are reflected in the increasing amount of independent product being pushed by the ITV sales

teams. Granada International will be selling both the complete programme and "music modules" from channel 4's new adult rock show, *Hard*, which is produced by the independent Initial Television.

Thames Television International will be pushing the British cable Children's Channel and a documentary, *Munch: A Piece of Paper*, produced by Philip Whitehead for independent Brook Productions.

The voracious, competitive commercial channels in Europe want two categories of material: reliable product in great quantity to pad out the schedules, i.e. games shows and sitcoms (which they get from America); and second, spectacle — a glitzy mini-series that can be promoted for high ratings two nights a week.

Granada International's head of sales, Wendy Stebbings, says: "People are either looking for good four-hour mini-series or 30 hours of a series, rather than the 13-hour series British TV has traditionally made."

so-called comparative advertising — in which a claim is made against a competitor — is illegal, and the media can be prosecuted for carrying it.

Germany also puts a ceiling on the value of gifts given away with products that is roughly half that allowed by other states.

Advertisers whose television campaigns include children can at least take solace, however, in the removal of one of the more bizarre restrictions in force until some five years ago in Austria — where dwarves had to be cast instead of children.

In Germany, for example,

## BYLINES

## Maxwell across Europe

Mirror Group Newspapers has for the moment abandoned plans for two new daily papers: a middle-market colour broadsheet, *Newsday*, and a metropolitan free paper, *The Londoner*, although research showed that *Newsday* had a potential circulation of nearly a million.

Sources at the company say they have been dropped in favour of Robert Maxwell's latest project, an English-language European paper. A team of French newspaper designers and sub-editors has been in London for the past fortnight working on dummies for the paper, scheduled for launch in January. They are injecting a continental flavour into the original designs for *Newsday*, on which it is based. The Mirror Group's editor-in-chief, Mike Molloy, is tipped to edit the new title, which it is hoped will have a circulation in the UK and Europe of more than 200,000, with a London-based staff of 100 and a Paris office of 15 or 20.

The group yesterday announced the appointment of a new advertising agency, Gold Greenlee Trotter, to try to raise the flagging sales of the *Daily Mirror*. GGT's predecessor, Young & Rubicam, will handle Mirror Group corporate advertising.

## Milne speaks

The BBC Board of Governors has become more political in its complexion with the appointment of more members of "a manifestly conservative turn of mind", according to the former director-general, Alasdair Milne.

The board has a conservative look about it, its thinking tends to be conservative, and that is something I regret because it tends to play into political hands in a way that is unhealthy," he says in a BBC radio interview next month, his first since he was dismissed last year. He also discusses BBC coverage of the Falklands and the miners' strike, the *Real Lives* affair, and his own dismissal, which he describes as "outrageous".

## Bit of a flyer

*Sunday Sport's* pursuit of what its editor, Drew Robertson, calls "alternative news" has led it to new heights. "World War 2 Bomber Found on Moon" screamed the splash on last Sunday's paper, while on an inside page it speculated on whether the crew could have survived, or starved to death. The story was lifted from the American *World Weekly News*, giving some substance to Robertson's claim that the paper doesn't actually make up its stories.

## No-strike deals

Senior editorial staff joining the *Scotland on Sunday* are being asked to sign a "no-strike" agreement, something their colleagues on the new paper's daily stablemate, *The*

*Scotsman*, have already had to do. The NUJ in London sees the move as the latest in a series designed to "de-unionize" Thomson Regional Newspapers, which has repudiated union agreements at its papers in England and Wales. At *Scotsman* publications, where management and unions are building bridges after a dispute last year, they are playing down the move. The NUJ in Edinburgh, which welcomes the new paper, says there are no signs of any intention to scrap the house agreement.

## Briefly...

Staff at *Over 21* will have to wait until the end of the week to know if their jobs are safe. Spotlight Magazines is looking for a buyer for the title, which otherwise faces closure.

Toy advertisers meet for a half-day seminar on Friday to discuss the guidelines on advertising to children amid growing pressure for a ban on toy ads. However, a recent survey found only 23 per cent of MPs want tighter controls. Lindsay Taylor, the only man to get an interview with Captain Simon Hayward in his Swedish prison cell, and the first reporter on the scene at the King's Cross fire, is the winner of this year's Sony Reporter of the Year award. Mrs Thatcher wants to remove the word "British" from the BBC, according to Tory MP Jonathan Aitken. "She made a throwaway remark to colleagues, rather like 'Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?'"

Nick Higham

## Free for all, fair for all?

There are fears that trade barriers will lift only in theory when Europe becomes a single market, writes Carys Bowen-Jones

The approach of the single European market in 1992 has prompted the first wide-ranging review of advertising and marketing regulations in the Community. The review, by the European Trade bodies of the main marketing service sectors (advertising, PR, sales promotion, direct marketing, and market research), aims to curb the expected increase in regulations, masquerading as consumer protection, as countries attempt to block the entry of foreign goods.

France, for example, bans television advertisements for overseas tourism, overseas airlines, cinemas, books, and retail outlets. Belgium im-

poses packaging regulations which make it difficult for foreign margarine manufacturers to import their brands. The Belgians claim margarine in oblong packs could be confused with butter.

The European Association of Advertising Agencies is also keen to remove restrictions which in their present form would make it hard for smaller manufacturers to market their goods cost-effectively in other Community states. It would be impossible to have a

uniform marketing campaign across a number of countries. "The big multinationals will always find a way round them, they have the marketing money to make the necessary changes for individual countries. But the smaller companies aren't going to be able to afford to employ a multinational advertising agency with the necessary experience," Tempest says.

In Germany, for example,

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Business Development Consultant  
Tel: 01-573 7386

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Quality is the key-word for this leading graphics studio, whose reputation has earned household name clients with accounts worth over £100,000. Continued company success has led to the creation of two new Sales Executive positions to take full advantage of the rapidly increasing demand for high quality artwork and design.  
Your proven success in sales, marketing flair, self motivation and drive will be rewarded by an attractive package including: a basic salary with an escalating commission agreement operating above a minimum target figure, company car and a comprehensive pension scheme after a period of satisfactory service.  
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Small publishers in pleasant West Hampstead offices require:  
**BOOK ORDERS CLERK/PUBLISHING ASSISTANT**  
Must be methodical able to type, use a calculator, pack books (light work only) and be prepared to help with editorial and promotional work.  
Training will be given. Age 17-30, salary £5,000 - £5,500, 35% hour week, 5 weeks holiday.  
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Phone Susan Lewis 435 1121 or send CV to Wileysey Publications, 25 West Cottages, London NW8 1RL.

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We offer an attractive salary and benefits which include LV's, Xmas Bonus, S.T.L. Five weeks holiday and pension scheme.  
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Is looking for an intelligent enthusiastic, self-motivated addition to their sales team.  
Basic plus commission.  
Please ring on 01-274-4000 ext 325.

## BBC News and Current Affairs Senior Appointments to the Political Unit

The Political Unit is an important part of BBC News and Current Affairs, Britain's largest journalistic organisation. It is currently undergoing a major re-shaping and expansion, which has created a number of exciting opportunities at senior level. The aim of the changes is to set new standards in political broadcast journalism including the news-gathering and analysis of events in Westminster, Whitehall, the political parties and throughout the country.

Applications are invited for the following posts:

## Managing Editor (Politics)

Working from the BBC's Westminster base, the Managing Editor (Politics) will be editorially and managerially responsible for over 60 on-site staff working on a wide variety of news and current affairs programmes in Radio and Television. The job will involve the assignment of journalists, liaison with newsdesk and output editors in radio and television throughout the BBC, and overall responsibility for ensuring that the right stories are delivered in the most effective way. There will also be a key role in the proposed televising of the House of Commons.

This post calls for a very senior journalist with a profound knowledge of politics, substantial experience of broadcasting, excellent organisational and managerial skills, and the speed of thought necessary to run a busy newsdesk.

Salary: by negotiation.

(Ref. 9234/T)

## Chief Political Correspondent (Television)

This person will be responsible for leading a small lobby-based team of political correspondents providing material for BBC Television's news and current affairs output on behalf of the Editor, News and Current Affairs, Television. Although the main emphasis will be on daily programmes, there will also be opportunities to work on longer, more considered items for weekly output. In addition to this the team will be involved in all the political conferences and any by-election or general election coverage. It will work closely with a Westminster-based television production team.

This post requires a journalist with a strong, proven record in political journalism at a very senior level. Television experience will be a definite advantage, but is not considered essential.

Salary: by negotiation.

(Ref. 9236/T)

## Chief Political Correspondent (Radio)

The holder of this post will provide a similar service for the Editor, News and Current Affairs, Radio as for television. He or she will lead a small team of correspondents at the House serving network radio's unrivalled spectrum of news and current affairs output, from the *Talky* programme to *The World Tonight*; from *Newsbeat* to *The World This Week* and the 6 O'Clock News and all other news bulletins. In addition to this, the team will be involved in all the political conferences and any by-election or general election coverage.

The emphasis will be on developing political coverage in its broadest sense, since straight gallery reporting will not be the responsibility of the lobby team.

This post calls for a senior journalist with deep experience of British Politics, very strong Radio broadcasting skills or aptitude, and the willingness to work long and flexible hours when Parliament is sitting.

Salary: by negotiation.

(Ref. 9235/T)

## Chief Parliamentary Correspondent

The Chief Parliamentary Correspondent, based in the BBC's Bridge Street office, alongside the Palace of Westminster, will take responsibility for the large group of journalists charged with serving the National Regions, the English Regions, Local Radio and the gallery reporting needs of network radio.

Regional output involves both radio and television and the network radio makes will include working closely with the Editor of the important Radio 4 programmes *Today in Parliament* and *Yesterday in Parliament* as well as the Producer of *In Committee*.

Working closely with the Managing Editor (Politics), the Chief Parliamentary Correspondent will need to be a skilled political broadcaster, as well as possessing the qualities needed to manage a large and rapidly moving operation.

Salary: by negotiation.

(Ref. 9237/T)

## Political Correspondent

There is at least one vacancy for a Political Correspondent based in the Palace of Westminster, working to the Chief Political Correspondent for Radio and Television. These correspondents will be assigned either to Radio or to Television for substantial periods, but will be expected to work in both media. The emphasis will be on daily programmes, but correspondents will be expected to offer longer analytical pieces when appropriate. There will also be opportunities to work for weekly current affairs programmes, particularly programmes such as *The World This Week* in Radio and *On the Record*, the weekly political programme, to be launched on BBC Television this September.

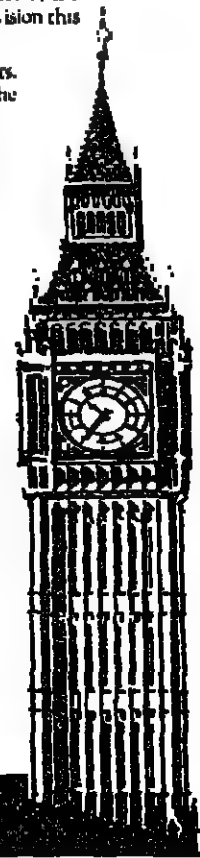
Applicants should be experienced political journalists. Training in basic broadcasting skills will be available for the right candidates wishing to join from print journalism.

Salary: by negotiation.

(Ref. 9238/T)

Contact us immediately for application form (quote appropriate ref. and enclose s.a.e.) BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, London W1A 1AA. Tel: 01-927 5799.

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We require a very well organised yet creative person to manage the promotion of our books and journals in the fields of science, technology and medicine.

Candidates will have had experience of promotion in the book trade - preferably with a specialist or academic publisher - and should be broadly familiar with the markets for our publications and be practised in these markets. Candidates should therefore be skilled in writing copy, producing both direct mail campaigns and press advertisements and organising exhibitions.

In general we want someone who can manage a department so as to produce lively and effective promotions on time and on budget. An attractive salary and benefits are available. Please apply with full CV and details of current earnings to:

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Personnel Manager  
Chapman & Hall  
11 New Fetter Lane  
London EC4P 4EE

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Reebok is a rapidly expanding and highly profitable company in the world of sports footwear and associated goods. Due to our phenomenal growth around the world, we are looking for two graduate level marketers with at least five years foreign sales/marketing experience to build the business in two key regions:

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Both positions involve substantial overseas travel, and you must have the maturity and resilience to operate confidently in a range of business environments: the ability to motivate and manage distributors is especially important. A background in international marketing would be an advantage.

Salary will be supported by a comprehensive package of benefits including a generous performance related bonus. There is a housing allowance for the Hong Kong position.

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The jobholder will report to the Sales Director and will be responsible for exploring and evaluating new marketing opportunities and, at the same time, assessing the performance of our existing products in light of market trends and competitor activity.

Candidates should be Degree qualified or have obtained a relevant Marketing qualification and have at least 2 years' marketing experience, ideally in an industrial products environment. Strong communication skills are essential, as is the ability to formulate effective marketing strategies. Applicants must also be fluent in French or German.

Salary and conditions of employment are good and include a car, B.U.F.A. membership, a contributory Pension Scheme and, if appropriate, a generous relocation package to this very attractive area.

Those interested should send a comprehensive C.V., including details of current earnings, to:-

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Applicants in their mid twenties to early thirties should have at least four years experience in retail management, where motivation of both themselves and their team combined with strong commercial awareness were major factors in their success. As a manager with Laura Ashley, you will be involved in every aspect of running your shop and your responsibilities will include control of sales and profitability, the selection, training and development of your staff, merchandising and the planning of the shop's day to day administrative requirements.

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If you enjoy working under pressure to high standards and think you have the drive and determination to succeed within our challenging environment, please write with full details of your experience and salary to: Susan Field, Personnel Manager, Laura Ashley Ltd., Braywick House, Braywick Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1DW.



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Please write to: J.F. Berger, Ebel Boutique,  
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The Job: A small in-house communications department handles press, public and membership relations. A researcher/writer is required to create and maintain an information resource within the department and to research and draft speeches, articles and information leaflets. The successful candidate will also assist in handling press enquiries and draft press releases.

The successful candidate: will almost certainly be a graduate who has already provided a similar service to an individual or organisation. Knowledge of the Financial Services Act and of the role of the independent financial adviser is necessary. Candidates need to have a positive and flexible approach to the position which is newly-created in an organisation which has expanded rapidly over the last year.

The remuneration package will include pension and other benefits, and will be no barrier to a candidate with the appropriate experience and track record.

Applicants should write in confidence, enclosing a full CV, to Miss Ann Palmer at FIMBRA, quoting reference REC.

THE FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES, MANAGERS AND BROKERS REGULATORY ASSOCIATION,  
22 Great Tower Street, London EC2R 6AQ.

## SALES EXECUTIVE



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Applicants should have an ability to organize the sale of our interesting range of products and also to market new lines. They should be able to run an office in Greater London.

The company benefit package includes an attractive salary and a company car. Starting period will be in Switzerland.

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Managing Director  
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Hauptstrasse 16  
CH-4405 Zumagen  
Switzerland  
Telephone: 0041/61/786 98 98

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Shoon is a specialist footwear marketing company based in Glastonbury, Somerset. We market the Ecco, Mephisto, and Turntec brands in the UK. We also have our own retail shops.

We are looking for one or possibly two people to join us to develop our marketing and retail operations in Southern England.

The job would be geared to suit the individual, but is likely to involve retail management, merchandising and some wholesale selling. We believe strongly in giving the right people independent responsibilities.

The right candidate is likely to be between 25-35 with some experience in retail or concession management and/or merchandising. They will be looking for a new challenge and the opportunity to broaden their experience in a small expanding company.

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Please reply enclosing a brief CV to Michael Fiennes,



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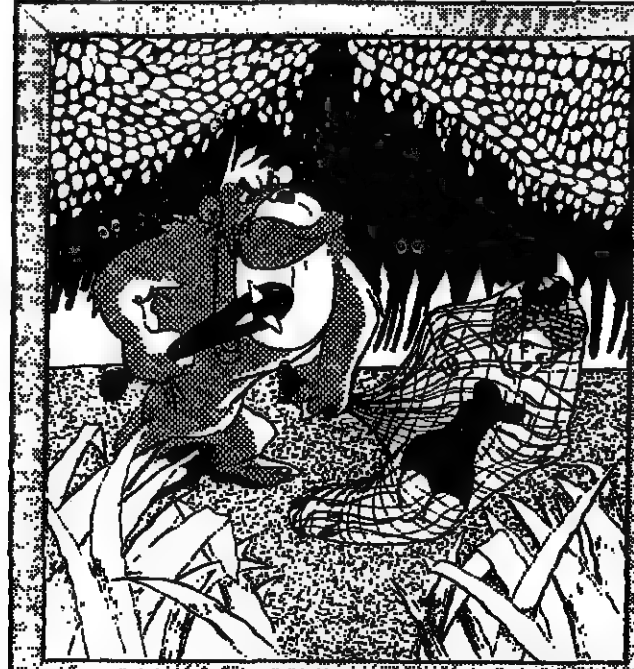
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Please write giving age, current salary and career details to: Mr D.B. Saunders, Shop Staff Manager, Royal Doulton Limited, South House, Liverpool Road, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 8UJ

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West London

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Please write with a detailed CV or telephone for an application form to: Mr J.T. Savidge, Personnel Officer - Group, Beecham Group plc, Beecham House, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9BD. Telephone 01-560 5151 (ext. 3280).

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Applicants should have accurate audio typing, warg word processing (cross training provided) and organisational skills plus a flair for admin.

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Mr Loke's address: 100 South Hill, London SW13 9JH. Tel: 01-394 9498. Mr Loke's home: 100 South Hill, London SW13 9JH. Tel: 01-394 9498. Mr Loke's office: 100 South Hill, London SW13 9JH. Tel: 01-394 9498.

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£10,000, 4 weeks holiday  
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REQUIRES A  
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## PERSONNEL

Our clients are seeking a level 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## RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY/2

## The £2m castle that was built by the bishop

Amberley Castle near Arundel, West Sussex, is a Grade I listed manor house set within medieval castle walls. It was bought last year for nearly £1.5 million, but the present owner with regret is now selling what is a manageable family house.

The castle dates back to the 14th century when the fortifications and great hall were built by the reigning Bishop of Chichester. Today the entrance through an immense portcullis flanked by two towers opens into a courtyard garden, and the manor house, east wing and tower house all provide self-contained or intercommunicating accommodation.

The manor house has four reception rooms and six bedrooms, while the east wing and tower have six and five bedrooms respectively. The property stands in 11 acres of grounds. Knight Frank & Rutley and Christopher Stephenson International are asking for £2 million. The agents consider this figure realistic as prices for outstanding country houses have risen by more than 30 per cent in the past year.

■ If this castle is too expensive, Cuckfield Castle at Kiblington, Co. Cork, is for sale at under £750,000. The 18th-century castle stands in 40 acres of gardens and farmland overlooking Courmashery Bay, and was enlarged in the 18th century. It has four reception rooms, two with Adam fireplaces, a master bedroom and a further bedroom. The agents are Sothby's International Realty with Keane Mahony Smith of Cork.

■ Huntley Manor, at Huntley, near Gloucester, was designed by the architect S.S. Teulon in the style of a French chateau. It was built in 1882 for the rector of Huntley as a gift to his French wife, who was said to be homesick. The manor, with its turret, has a drawing room, windows and carved Gothic fireplaces, a set in eight acres of gardens including a lake overlooking the Severn Valley. It has three reception rooms, a library, five principal bedrooms, a self-contained flat and six secondary bedrooms. The agents say it is eminently suitable for family occupation or commercial use. Outside there is a stabling, a heated swimming pool and a tennis court, and Strutt & Parker's Cheltenham Office, with Bruton Knowles, of Gloucester, wants offers around £275,000.

■ Thirk Cottage in Highgate, north London, built in 1832, was formerly the home of the gamekeeper of Thirk Farm. The cottage has been enlarged by the present owner, using old bricks and tiles, and it now makes an ideal family house. It has a drawing room, a conservatory, a dining room, a third reception room and six bedrooms, and stands within a walled garden. Winkworth Highgate wants offers around £250,000.



Lyegrove, standing on the edge of the Badminton estate on the Gloucestershire-Avon border, is an early 17th-century house that has experienced the ups and downs of so many country houses over the years. After some 150 years, there were improvements in the last century, including the introduction of Dutch gables and the building of a stable block. Lyegrove property became part of the Badminton estate until it was bought in 1926 by the 14th Earl and Countess of Westmorland. They carried out more improvements, and the famous gardens are the work of Lady Westmorland and the architect G.H. Kitchen. On Lady Westmorland's death in 1984 the house, again in need of restoration, was sold, and the present owner has once more brought it back to its best. The house has four reception rooms, a master bedroom suite and six further suites, with more accommodation on the second floor. There are two flats, and the grounds of 18 acres include formal gardens and paddocks. Savills wants offers of more than £1.5 million, and Christie's is to hold a sale of the contents of the house.

## New deals for buyers

The difficulties that first-time purchasers experience in stepping on to the home ownership ladder, particularly in London and the South-East, were heightened by the Budget measure that ended multiple tax relief for unmarried persons who join forces to buy.

Building societies say the result has been a rush to buy before August, the deadline, and various organizations are plunging into this lucrative, if doomed, market. One of the latest is HomeCheck, a firm of residential property consultants, which has set up a register - like a dating agency - for unmarried buyers wanting to share the benefits of multiple tax relief.

The registration fee is £10 plus VAT. And for £5 a week plus VAT HomeCheck will forward details to other registered parties. The scheme is being run in and around London. The details are available from Denise Pantan on 01-788 0421.

However, others besides first-time buyers have their needs, so Nationwide Anglia has launched a new mortgage package specially tailored to meet the needs of second-time, third-time or even fourth-time buyers. The HomeMover package was put together after considerable research showed that people who have already been through the home-buying process once have different requirements when looking for a new home.

Particularly important aspects of the package are a choice of different types of mortgage and regular information for buyers about the stage they have reached in the buying process.

The scheme claims several "firsts" -

the first deposit-free purchase scheme for any lender; a guarantee at exchange of contracts that Nationwide Anglia will buy the property if the buyer should fail to complete; and the first comprehensive bridging loan facility from a building society. In addition, the package includes a flexible mortgage plan, offering a reduced interest rate for up to five years, to suit, perhaps, a couple starting a family or somebody returning to further education or retirement.

There is a low-start repayment mortgage option, to keep costs down at the start of a loan. It is aimed, for example, at somebody moving from north to south, and it is, of course, particularly useful to first-time buyers as well.

Brian Whitfield, Nationwide Anglia's general manager, commented: "It is reckoned that moving house is a pretty traumatic experience, so to relieve some of the pressure we will give HomeMover customers regular updates on the progress of their mortgage application. New facilities such as the deposit-free purchase and bridging finance will give them the reassurance that help is there if they need it."

He referred to his society's competitors, "particularly the offer-over-the-phone mail order mortgage companies" that had done well by promising quick service and decisions.

Mr Whitfield said: "With HomeMover we are more than matching their products and services, so now we must match them in terms of speed of decision-making - hence our aim to value a property and give a decision on the mortgage within a week of receiving an application."

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## PROPERTY BUYERS' GUIDE

## RENTALS

## HAMPTONS

**LOWDOWN SQUARE, SW1**  
An excellent second floor unfurnished flat with good security and portage, and views over the square.  
Accommodation: 4/5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, drawing room, dining room, third reception room, fully fitted kitchen, utility room.  
£2500 per week

**6 Arlington Street, St James's, London SW1A 1RB**  
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# Unbridled joy of easy rider

There is no side or swagger to the truly great in sport, as Simon Barnes finds out in his quest of the over-achievers.

Today: Bill Shoemaker, arguably the most successful sportsman of all time



If you concentrate on the athletes at the very top of the top you give yourself an easy time. Because at this dizzy, stratospheric level of achievement you simply do not find any "side." Side is the preserve of the second-raters, the people who have clawed every step of their way, who have had to make the very most out of every single ounce of ability they possess: admirable people in many ways, full of blood and guts and determination, but people who have just a tiny corner of disappointment with themselves.

**Career statistics**  
Borwick, Texas, August 19, 1931.  
Height: 4ft 11in.  
Weight: 7st 2lb.  
First winner: Shafter V. Golden Gate Fields, San Francisco, April 20, 1949.  
Career earnings: \$719m.  
US national champion 10 times.  
Top races won: Kentucky Derby four times, Belmont Stakes (5), Preakness (2).  
Best horses ridden: Ack Ack, Cougar II, Exceller, Dahlia, Swaps, Damascus, John Henry and Ferdinand.

Total, as a comparison, Piggott rode 5,191 winners. And Shoemaker is still riding.

He is the most affable man you could wish to meet and, despite his unusual size, he has more self-possession than any of the shifty-eyed giants among the second-raters in every sport. He specializes in the highly American habit of drawing understatement: ain't no big deal, winning all them races. Eclipse awards? Someone's got to get 'em, I guess.

Charles Whittingham, "The Bald Eagle," is another American racing legend and, as a trainer, he has had his best successes in partnership with Shoemaker. Unsurprisingly, he is something of an authority on the man: "You have to realize that he is a perfect athlete. Great at tennis, great golf player; he has perfect coordination. If he'd been a little bigger he could easily have been a champion golfer. He does everything well."

But the truly remarkable thing about Shoemaker's riding is not, apparently, athleticism but the fact that he seems to do nothing at all on his horse. Not much that you can see, anyway: monkey-wriggle acrobatics and machine-gun whippings are not his style. He just gets on a horse and it goes. If you take a walk around Santa Anita racetrack of a morning to watch the work, people will queue up to tell you tales of Shoemaker's uncanny horsemanship.

ship: a rogue animal will scatter his work riders like confetti, but put Shoemaker on top and they are instantly transformed into lambs.

"Oh, yeah, I play with him, fool around, you know? He responds, he knows I'm trying to be nice - I guess, anyway. Play with the bit, give and take. Touch, I guess - that's my theory."

Shoemaker is utterly without the traditional bitterness of the jockey. It is a pleasure to have a beer with him - and you can. Unlike most jockeys, he can have a beer any time he wants. He has no weight problems and that tends to make for a saner outlook than that of the grim victims of wasting. And he is wholly without the standard jockey's chip about physique: his build has been a priceless asset to him.

Naturally, it was his size that made people suggest he become a jockey. "So how did it start?" I asked him.

"Weren't any big deal. I was going to high school, girl in my class was dating a jockey, she said, why don't you become a jockey? I said, what the hell's a jockey? I was 15 or so, got a job on a ranch, taking care of horses, cleaning out stalls."

"And was there a moment when you realized that you had something special? That you had something that other riders lacked?"

"No, I never thought about it in that way. But I knew as soon as I got to the ranch, working with those horses, I knew that was what I enjoyed. That was what I was going to do. And I took to it like a duck to water. I worked there for a year before I got on a horse. First time I got on one, that was a great thrill."

"I started riding races in 1949. Right away I had a great rapport with the animals. They liked me. We got on well together. I got along with them better than the big guys, who fought them all the time. I would kind of give and take with them and they galloped for me better than for the other guys."

But how did he make that happen? "I don't know. A rapport, a kind of sixth sense, I don't know. The animal and I, we have a feeling for each other. That's sort of it."

"Have you ever been frightened on a horse?"

"Oh, yeah. You bet. The thing about fear is, you've got to be able to talk yourself out of it. Everyone gets scared. I say to myself, if you're scared, don't do it. Quit. But I want to do it so, don't be scared. Worst thing that happened, horse fell on me, broke my pelvis in five places, bladder, all kinds of internal things. You name it, it's happened. But I'm still here, yeah?"

Shoemaker is so perfectly relaxed a person that it is hard to believe he is a professional sportsman. He has none of the sportsman's occupational disease of insecurity. Parity, this is because of his unbelievable achievements, partly it is his age, but mostly it is because this is his nature, anyway.



"Oh, but he's competitive all right," Whittingham said. You play with him, you find that out. But he can switch it on and off when he wants."

"So many sportsmen are pretty obsessive," I said to Shoemaker. "But you don't seem that way at all."

"That's true. I'm an easy-going kind of a guy and I do my job and I like to play with the other guys in the jockeys' room. I think that's part of it. If you can't have fun doing what you're doing, well, get out. And you can have fun and do a good job - at least, I can. Some guys can't. Sometimes I make some joke to another guy in the race. He says 'Shut up, you're disturbing my concentration.' These guys have a different outlook."

Shoemaker is an unflinching joshing, an insuppressible kiddier. He likes to laugh and joke and tease before, after and during a race. Relaxation is that easy for him. There was a famous occasion back in his youth when he forgot: where the winning post was, and in a major race. He stopped riding for a few strides, thinking he had won, realized he had stopped too soon, kicked on again - and was caught on the line.

In the next big race of that season his reputation was on the line, his

big race temperament in question. The night before, he had dined with a fellow jockey, and two of them had boasted about their chances in the race. This jockey hit the front and Shoemaker set off after him. He drew alongside and then he just could not resist the jape. He deliberately checked his horse, and said "Hey! How y'doin'?" Then, roaring with laughter, he kicked on for victory.

hat, I think, is pretty high-calibre relaxation. "You should be that way. Too tense, you probably do something you shouldn't. I've got more relaxed over the years but I started off pretty relaxed, too - probably more so than the other guys. I have fun. More so than anything. I knew I could ride, I never did worry about making a mistake or losing."

"Do you get excited when you win?"

"Not necessarily so, no. I've kind of trained myself over the years not to get too high and not to get too low. That's the game: one time you're way up here, next time way down there. Sometimes you get beat in a big race, it affects your riding the next horse. I try not to let that happen. I think I've trained myself to do that thing over the years."

"So how many more years are you going to keep it up?"

"Well, I've been threatening to quit for about 10 years but I've never got around to it. I enjoy doing it. I enjoy the camaraderie, it keeps me young, you know? I enjoy racing. I might be off for a couple of days and it's always nice to get back out there... riding a nice couple horses..."

I have been talking with three quite amazing sportsmen, three of the greatest over-achievers in sport, or in the history of sport: the ever-analytical Steve Davis, dashing Nelson Piquet and the laid-back, drawing Bill Shoemaker. Mega-winners: but if there is one thing they all share, it is not what I expected: an obsession with winning.

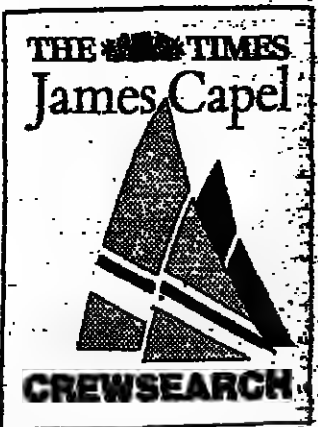
No, it is their quite unbridled enjoyment of the game itself they reveal not in the end, victory, but in the means, in the time itself, for their game, for the abstract patterns of snooker, for the odds of racing, for the magic of the horse, each of these men has one thing in common: an all-encompassing, overwhelming love.

**TOMORROW**  
Nelson Piquet, pursuing a quiet life in the fast lane

## Owners are quick to appreciate finalists' potential

By Barry Pickthall

The 12 Crewsearch finalists who won through to represent the South West and Southern areas in the first of 10 regional trials in this series, sponsored jointly by *The Times* and James Capel, to find the offshore sailors of the future, have been quick to gain recognition for their skills.



Graham Walker and his Crusader 28 12-metre campaign team are providing an opportunity for the top talent spotted at the recent Torquay and Cowes trials to sail aboard their David Holman design during their work-up trials in the Solent this week, before the British 12 metre is shipped to Sweden to compete in the world championship in July.

In addition, the Royal Lynton Yacht Club has extended an invitation for a number of Crewsearch finalists, including those who win through at the Irish/Scottish trial at Largs next weekend, to race in the Cribbin Cup Matchrace Trials and the following Lynton Cup British Matchrace Championship, sponsored by Duracell.

A restriction on the western Falmouth Harbour for the two events insists that an experienced, independent sailor must be on board each yacht while racing. Nick Riley, chairman of this year's Lynton Cup event, said yesterday that he was encouraged by the high calibre of talent being brought forward by the Crewsearch scheme. He hoped to allocate a place for a finalist aboard each boat during the Cribbin Cup selection trials, on May 14, and provide two further places during the Duracell International series the following weekend.

The offer provides the Crewsearch winners with an unprecedented opportunity to race with some of the best names in the sport. Nick Blatchford, the women's champion, and Nigel Buckley, the 470 world champion, are among the up-and-coming stars competing for the single place reserved for the Cribbin Cup winner in the Duracell International series which, this year, will be contested by the leading America's Cup sailors including Chris Dickson, Peter Gilmore, John Kolius and Pelle Peterson, together with Britain's Derek Clarke and Eddie Warden Owen.

During last weekend's southern area Crewsearch trial, co-ordinated by the Island Sailing Club at Cowes, Cadmore, who assessed each of the 70-trialists entered in the RYA event, was impressed by the attitude and determination shown to reach the pinnacles of a tough sport.

"Most had a very positive serious outlook, and some were very impressive in the very difficult weather conditions. Cadmore said, 'Often it is only when things go wrong, when there is a lot of pressure, even danger, that you find the really cool ones.'"

The weather certainly presented the sternest of tests, but as the cold easterly winds sometimes gusting up to 40 knots, swept across the Solent, sailing skills had to be at a premium to avoid knock-downs and blown sails.

Apart from the finalists, named in Monday's edition of *The Times*, three women competitors - Cordelia Eggleston, London and Niam Warden, Cadmore, who assessed each of the 70-trialists entered in the RYA event, was impressed by the attitude and determination shown to reach the pinnacles of a tough sport.

**CREWSEARCH FINALISTS:** Southern Area: Tactician: Geoff Davison; racing: Richard James, Cockpit: Brian Davison; reserve: Richard Bryson, Monohull: Ian Goss; reserve: Colin Smith, Trimaran: Ben Jones; reserve: John Smith. West: Nick Newington; reserve: Peter Jones. East: Roger Day; reserve: James Young. Top Women: Cordelia Eggleston, London and Niam Warden.

## England sweep aside challenge of Cyprus

By Roddy Mackenzie

England recorded their first win in the women's West European championship, the Spring Cup, in Athens yesterday by overwhelming Cyprus, a nation making its first appearance in the competition. In four sets, 12-15, 15-9, 15-10, 15-10.

It was a solid team performance that carried England through with Wendy Gate, the captain, once again playing a significant role although neither team managed to gather points with any consistency.

To Cyprus's credit they kept England on court for fully 100 minutes. Although a taller team, they have considerably less international experience even than England, and indeed, before the tournament, had only nine international caps between their players.

Cyprus lost one of their principal hitters, Giannoula Orfanoudi, with an ankle injury while leading 8-7 in the final set.

and England almost let the slip when the Cypriots recovered from 9-14 to 13-14.

However, their challenge was checked as Sandra Prince, from the English league champions, Sale, put away the winning point. The result had no direct bearing on the final placings in the tournament as both Cyprus and England go forward to contest places 13 to 16 with Israel and Greece. Cyprus will get another shot at England in their final match on Saturday.

West Germany, the favourites, continued to impress and were detained on court for less than an hour in both their opening matches. They took 47 minutes to defeat Spain 3-0 and 36 minutes to beat Sweden by an identical margin.

**RESULTS:** Turkey 3, Spain 0; Norway 3, Denmark 0; Sweden 3, Denmark 0; Denmark 3, Greece 0; Austria 3, Israel 0; West Germany 3, Sweden 0; England 3, Cyprus 1; Sweden 3, Spain 0.

## Queen's Bench Divisional Court

### Sampling system insufficient

**Rotherham Metropolitan BC v Rayson (UK) Ltd**  
Before Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Hutchison  
[Judgment April 25]

A system whereby the results of sampling of crayons carried out under the auspices of agents were only reported to the company if they were adverse, was not sufficient to satisfy the standard of care required by the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 and the Consumer Safety (Amendment) Act 1986 as there was no check made that the analyses were in fact taking place.

Similarly, sampling in this country by the selection of one packet of crayons from a batch of 1000 dozen was insufficient in the absence of evidence that the standard throughout the consignment would be the same.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by way of case stated by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council from the decision of Rotherham Justices on October 8, 1987 who found that Rayson (UK) Ltd, the defendant company, had taken all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of offences.

Section 24 of the 1968 Act provides: "... it shall ... be a defence ... to prove (a) that the commission of the offence was due to ... reliance on information supplied to him or to the act or default of another ... and (b) that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of such an offence ..."

Mr James Baird for the council; the company did not appear and was not represented.

**LORD JUSTICE WOOLF** said the offences alleged against the company, who were large-scale importers into this country of items manufactured in the Far East, were that on October 30, 1986:

1 a retailer had sold children's wax crayons to which were applied a false trade description,

namely the word "poisonless", when the black crayon contained excessive amounts of toxic material contrary to section 1(1)(b) of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 and that that was due to the act or default of the defendant company whereby the defendant was guilty of an offence by virtue of section 23 of the 1968 Act.

2 The retailer had contravened regulation 3(1)(i) of the Pencils and Graphical Instruments (Safety) Regulations (SI 1974 No 236) by selling the box of crayons, the black one having 1,200 parts of soluble lead per million parts of crayon contrary to section 2(1) of the Consumer Protection Act 1961 and 1971 which was due to the act or default of the defendant company whereby it was guilty of an offence by virtue of section 12(6) of the Consumer Safety (Amendment) Act 1986.

The justices found that the defendant company was a concern employing 18 full-time staff with a 1986 turnover of £4 million. It dealt with the manufacturer through agents based in Hong Kong.

The duties of the agents included checking the quality of the crayons by visiting the factory and submitting samples for analysis by a government analyst in Hong Kong. The company also had agents in Hong Kong who monitored the quality of the crayons.

The company had provided the manufacturer with the legal requirements for the production of the crayons. Only adverse reports by the Hong Kong analyst were expected to be conveyed and no such reports had been received.

The crayons were imported once a year in a single batch each containing 7,000 to 10,000 dozen crayons, each containing 12 crayons.

From each batch of crayons imported a single packet had been selected at random for sample analysis by a public analyst in Manchester. All the samples analysed complied with the 1974 Regulations.

The company had no reason

## Law Report April 27 1988

### Property does not pass until payment in full

**Mitsui & Co Ltd and Another v Flota Mercante Grancolombiana SA**  
Before Lord Justice Purchas, Lord Justice Staughton and Sir George Waller  
[Judgment April 20]

Where goods had been shipped overseas by sellers, named as consignees in the bills of lading, property in the goods did not pass to the buyers, who had paid 80 per cent of the purchase price in advance, until the remainder of the price had been paid.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the defendant shipowners, Flota Mercante Grancolombiana SA, from a decision of Mr Justice Hobhouse (1987) 2 Lloyd's Rep 392 giving judgment for the second plaintiffs, Colombia Fisheries Co Ltd, for part of their claim in respect of the loading, care and discharge of cargo carried on board the defendants' ships from Cartagena, Colombia, to Yokohama, Japan.

Mr Richard Jacobs for the defendant shipowners; Mr Mark Howard for the plaintiff cargo-owners.

**LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON** said that Colombia Fisheries, the second plaintiffs, were a Japanese company operating a fleet of trawlers to catch prawns. They sold the prawns to a Colombian company who processed and packed them and sold them back to Colombia Fisheries who in turn sold them to their parent company, the first plaintiffs.

The appeal concerned 2,426 cartons of prawns shipped by the Colombian company on board a vessel belonging to the defendants. On discharge, the prawns were found to be damaged.

The only issue on the appeal was whether the plaintiffs had title to sue in tort. A claim could be made for damage to goods on board a ship by the person who was owner of the goods at the time the damage occurred suing in tort.

The judge held that Colombia Fisheries became owners of the goods on shipment. Hence their

claim succeeded in tort to the extent that the damage was found to have occurred while the goods were in the custody of the defendant shipowners.

Colombia Fisheries had agreed to buy the prawns from the Colombian sellers. No copy of the contract was available but the judge found that it contained the term "FOB" (free on board). Payment of 80 per cent of the price had been made before shipment by means of a letter of credit.

There was no evidence as to how the remaining 20 per cent was or should have been paid, but his Lordship was inclined to assume that it was payable as a second instalment of the letter of credit, against presentation of the bills of lading. What was important was that there was no evidence as to when it was paid, whether before or after the

damage to the prawns.

The defendants argued that the property passed to Colombia Fisheries only when the remaining 20 per cent of the price was paid, and that, as there was no evidence that that had occurred before the damage, the claim in tort must fail.

The goods were ascertained on shipment and it was agreed that once that happened section 17 of the Sale of Goods Act 1979 applied. Accordingly, the problem had to be solved by the means set out in section 17(2), and various presumptions were supplied by sections 18 and 19.

By the bills of lading the goods were deliverable to the order of the sellers. Consequently, the *prima facie* presumption under section 19 was that they reserved the right of disposal. Unless that presumption was displaced, it had the result that

the property did not pass to the buyers until the condition imposed by the sellers was fulfilled. That condition was, presumably, that the balance of the price was paid.

According to Mr Howard, the intention of the parties that the property had passed on shipment was to be derived from the facts that 80 per cent of the price had been paid and a letter of credit was available which, it was to be assumed, secured payment of the remaining 20 per cent.

It seemed to his Lordship that in the ordinary way a seller would not wish to part with the property in his goods if they were shipped overseas until he had been paid in full. Of course, he might agree to give credit, but his Lordship would not readily infer that he intended to do so.

The basis of the plaintiffs' claim was that the defendants were in breach of the implied conditions that the car should be reasonably fit for the purpose and should be of merchantable quality.

Section 14(6) of the 1979 Act provided the extended definition of "merchantable quality" that was first introduced by the Supply of Goods (Implied Terms) Act 1973.

That wider definition had been considered by the Court of Appeal in *Rogers v Parish (Scarborough) Ltd* (1987) QB 933 in relation to a new car. It was held that in considering whether a car was of merchantable quality the court had to consider not merely the buyer's purpose of driving the car but of his doing so with the appropriate degree of comfort, ease of handling and pride in the car's outward appearance.

The defendants here argued that that test applied only to new cars and that the old test of "roadworthiness" continued to apply in relation to sales of second-hand cars. But that argument was not acceptable. It followed that Judge Lipfriend,

who made no mention in his judgment of *Rogers*, case, might have applied the wrong test.

Proceeding on the basis that he did apply the wrong test, the case was not one where a neutral should be ordered. Even if the judge had applied the correct test - that is, had taken all the circumstances into account - he would have been justified in concluding on the facts that this car was fit for the purpose and was of merchantable quality.

It was still correct to say, as Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said in *Bartlett v Sidney Marcus Ltd* (1965) 1 WLR 1013, that "a buyer should realise that, when he buys a second-hand car, defects may appear sooner or later". Here defects did develop. The matter was one of fact and degree.

It could not be accepted that the plaintiffs had made out a case of breach of the implied conditions notwithstanding that the ambit of section 14(2) had been enlarged by section 14(6).

**LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE** agreed.

**Solicitors:** R. Dave & Co, EHL Bailey & Co.

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